

## Tips for Conserving Water

### In the Bathroom

1. Make sure your toilet is an ultra-low flush model (1.6 gallons per flush).
2. While waiting for shower water to get warm, catch the cold water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet.
3. Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Also, turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor.

### In the Kitchen

1. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the rinse water running. If you have two sinks, wash in one and save the water as you rinse in the other. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or faucet for short periods instead of letting the water run.
2. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed.
3. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.
4. Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight, or else defrost them in the microwave.
5. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan.
6. Use the garbage disposal less and compost your organic wastes. Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.

### Outside

1. Mulch around trees and plants (but not too deeply) to reduce evaporation.
2. If you have a pool, use a pool cover. It will cut down on evaporation, keep your pool cleaner, and reduce the need to add chemicals.
3. Water during the early morning; don't water the lawn on windy days; cut down watering on cool and overcast days; and don't water in the rain.
4. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation.
5. Xeriscape: replace your lawn and high-water using trees and plants with drought-tolerant and regionally adapted plants.
6. When taking your car to a car wash, be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
7. Dispose of hazardous materials and prescription medications properly.