WATER CONSERVATION

Water is a limited resource, so we must all work to save every drop possible. Follow these tips to reduce your daily water use and help conserve our groundwater resources!

BATHROOM

- Install high-efficiency shower heads, faucet aerators and toilets. Newer models require less water.
- Take shorter showers. Keep your shower to five minutes or less.
- When brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving, turn the water off until it is time to rinse.
- Check for leaks and repair them. A dripping faucet or leaking toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water each month.
- Never use the toilet as a trash can to dispose of bugs, trash or other items. Unnecessary flushing wastes water and places an extra burden on wastewater systems and septic tanks.

KITCHEN

- Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load.
- Wipe dishes down with a paper towel instead of rinsing large pieces of food off in the sink.
- Pour unused water into a pet's bowl or a potted plant instead of dumping it down the drain.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables over a bowl. Collect that water for reuse later.
- Small savings add up over time. Try not to make too much coffee. Don't let ice cubes melt in the sink. Fix dripping faucets.

CLEANING

- Make sure the clothes washer is fully loaded before operating.
- Opt for high water efficiency models if you are buying or replacing an appliance that uses water.
- Consider using a car wash instead of hand washing your vehicle at home. Newer car washes are more water efficient. If you must wash your car at home, park it on the grass so that the yard benefits from water flowing off the vehicle.

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OUTDOOR

- Be aware of your local landscape irrigation ordinances, and abide by those guidelines.
- Water lawns early in the morning to reduce water losses from evaporation and wind drift.
- Use a sprinkler that throws larger drops of water rather than a fine mist.
- Do not water during or directly after a precipitation event.
- Do not over water or water too frequently. This not only wastes water but can stress your plants.
- Conduct an audit on your irrigation system each year. Make sure your system is not delivering too much water, which creates runoff. Ensure that all sprinkler heads are working and pointing in the correct direction. Confirm that the system is running on the schedule you have set.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses for flower beds, trees and shrubs. These deliver water to the plants more efficiently and helps reduce water waste.
- Use a broom to clean debris off of sidewalks and driveways rather than spraying them with water.
- Plant native, drought-tolerant plants. These usually require less water and maintenance.
- Consider "xeriscaping" your yard. By incorporating drought-tolerant plants and reducing turf grass, you can greatly reduce your outdoor water use.
- Utilize mulch. This helps reduce soil moisture loss, regulate soil temperatures and help control weed populations. Organic mulches, like tree bark, cotton burrs or other matter that will break down over time, will increase your soil's water holding capacity.
- Consider harvesting rainwater to use in your landscape. This water source is cost-effective and highly beneficial to your plants.
- Be sure your irrigation system is off and that outdoor pipes are wrapped during freezing temperatures. Exposed plumbing can crack and leak.

WHY SHOULD I CONSERVE?

The 2022 Texas State Water Plan estimates that the state population will equally to roughly 50 million Texas residents by 2070. With more people coming to Texas, our water supplies will need to accommodate those new residents. Current supplies are projected to decrease by more than 18 percent over that time, while the demand is expected to increase by 9 percent. So how can we help decrease demand and increase our existing supplies? Conserve every drop possible!