



# **WATER SAVING TIPS**

*(Provided by the City of Fort Morgan Water Department)*

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with ***you!*** Do one thing each day that will save water; even if savings are small, “***every drop counts***”.

***Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community!***

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## **OUTSIDE**

**Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.**

- ❖ Only water when needed; walk across your lawn, and if you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- ❖ Use a rain gauge to track the rain or irrigation your yard receives. Check with a local water agency or conservation office to know how much rain is needed to skip an irrigation cycle or for other lawn watering advice.
- ❖ Check sprinkler systems frequently and adjust, so only the lawn is watered; not the house, sidewalk or street. Also remember to check valves for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- ❖ Show your household how to shut off automatic watering systems; turn off if malfunctioning or when storms approach.
- ❖ Install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- ❖ Divide watering cycles into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption.
- ❖ Choose water-efficient drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs and flowers.
- ❖ Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass, but water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- ❖ When watering your lawn or garden with a hose set the kitchen timer.
- ❖ Do not water on windy days; after all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
- ❖ Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Only water plants when necessary.
- ❖ Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs/trees or collect for gardens.

- ❖ Aerate lawns by punching holes in the grass about six-inches apart so water will reach the roots and not run off the surface.
- ❖ If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree or the lawn.
- ❖ Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers. Call the local CSU Extension Office for more information about these water thrifty plants.
- ❖ Plant during the Spring or Fall when watering requirements are lower and group plants with the same watering needs together.
- ❖ Use a layer of organic mulch or compost around plants to reduce evaporation.
- ❖ Avoid planting turf in hard to water areas. (i.e. steep inclines and isolated strips by sidewalks or driveways).
- ❖ Reduce the amount of grass in yards by planting shrubs and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
- ❖ Weed lawns/gardens regularly; weeds compete with other plants for nutrients and water.
- ❖ Adjust lawn mowers to a higher setting; longer grass will shade root systems and hold moisture better.
- ❖ Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.
- ❖ While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
- ❖ Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- ❖ Bathe pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
- ❖ Use a bucket and automatic shut-off nozzle while washing cars.
- ❖ Check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.
- ❖ Report water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or water utility.
- ❖ Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20° to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.

## ***AROUND THE HOUSE IN GENERAL***

- ❖ Teach your family to turn faucets off tightly after each use.
- ❖ Make sure there are aerators on all faucets.
- ❖ Insulate hot water pipes so you do not have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
- ❖ Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet, it's simple and inexpensive.
- ❖ Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- ❖ Check your water meter and bill to track water usage.
- ❖ Choose new water-saving appliances, such as washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load. They are more water and energy-efficient than older appliances.

## ***IN THE BATHROOM***

- ❖ Install low-volume toilets.
- ❖ If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in the toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.
- ❖ Make sure the toilet flapper does not stick open after flushing.
- ❖ Put food coloring or a dye tablet in the toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, there is a leak that needs fixed.
- ❖ Do not drop things such as tissues in the toilet to flush, use a trash can instead and save gallons every time.
- ❖ Install a low-flow showerhead; they are inexpensive and easy to install.
- ❖ Time showers to keep them under 5 minutes and turn off the water while shampooing your hair.
- ❖ Turn off the water while shaving and brushing your teeth.

## ***IN THE KITCHEN***

- ❖ Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.
- ❖ Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
- ❖ Run your dishwasher only when it is full.
- ❖ Cut back on rinsing if your dishwasher is new. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- ❖ Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- ❖ When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- ❖ Do not use running water to thaw food.
- ❖ Wash produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running the water.
- ❖ Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
- ❖ Select the proper size pans and cook food in as little water as possible. Large pans require more water than may be necessary. Cooking in less water also retains more of the nutrients.
- ❖ Use the garbage disposal sparingly; compost instead, and save gallons every time.
- ❖ Install an instant water heater on the kitchen sink so you do not need to let the water run to heat up. (This will also reduce heating costs for your household.)

## ***IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM***

- ❖ When washing clothes, always match the water level to the size of the load and wash only when you have a full load.