

Saving Water...Saving Money...Saving For the Future!

Growing populations, rising demands, warm temperatures, and low rainfall can challenge the availability of water, especially during the summer. A few small changes in your water-use habits can make a huge difference in water savings. Practicing these tips could save up to 25,000 gallons per year for a family of four!

Indoor Water Use

Bathroom:

- Installing a low-flow showerhead is the single most effective conservation step that can be taken inside the home.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of trash.
- Do not allow the water to run while brushing your teeth or shaving.



Tips in the Kitchen

- Only run the dishwasher with a full load.
- Your drinking water will be much more refreshingly cool if you keep a container of it in the refrigerator! Running water from the tap until it is cool is wasteful.
- Install an aerator on your kitchen faucet to use less water, without feeling an impact.

Outdoor Water Use: In the summer, outdoor water use can account for 50% or more of total water use.

- One half to one inch of water per week in the summer, will keep most Texas grasses healthy. Although there may be some loss of the green color, the root system is often alive and healthy. To determine how long you should run your sprinklers, place straight-edged cans at different distances away from the sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill an average of one half to one inch of water in each can. Then, only water for the amount of time it takes to reach the desired level.
- Water during the early morning or evening hours since evaporation losses will be up to 60% higher during the day. Do not water on windy days. Set sprinklers so the lawn is watered, not sidewalks and driveways.
- Harvest the rain. Buy a rain barrel or a cistern and collect the water from your gutters to water your plants.



Additional Tips

- Know where your master water shut-off valve is in case a pipe bursts.
- Insulate hot water pipes to avoid wasting water waiting for it to get hot (you will save energy too).
- Install under-the-counter instant water heaters so you don't waste water while waiting on it to get hot.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. How can I find out about the latest water requirements?

A. Call the NBU information Line at (830)608-8925. Callers can hear a pre-recorded message that gives the latest updates about water requirements 24-hours a day. Callers are also welcome to leave a message on the information line if they would like to report a possible water violation or have a question and would like a return call

Q. Are there other ways I can conserve water besides observing the times for using a sprinkler.

A. There are a number of simple practices that will save water *and* save you money, including the NBU Toilet, High Efficiency Washing Machine and Water Saving Landscape Rebate Programs! Call (830)629-8400 to learn more.

You can also follow these simple tips to save water and money:

- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year. This adds to the cost of your water and sewer bill.
- Operate clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Set the water level for the size of load you are using.