

# 15 Things You Can Do To Save Water



## Helpful conservation tips for Newport News Waterworks' customers

**Make water conservation part of your daily routine!** We've become accustomed to turning on the faucet and having water flow effortlessly and endlessly. In reality, water is a limited resource, and our drinking water supply is vulnerable to droughts that can rapidly deplete full reservoirs. That's why conservation is so very important. Follow these tips to reduce water use and remember to make conservation a year 'round effort!

- 1** **Check toilets for leaks.** Put food coloring in your toilet tank and wait ten minutes. If without flushing, the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. You may be wasting 100 gallons a day.
- 2** **Replace your toilet with a low-flow toilet.** Ultra low-flush toilets use about 1.6 gallons per flush.
- 3** **Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.** Every cigarette or tissue you flush wastes 1.6 to 7 gallons per flush.
- 4** **Put a plastic bottle in the toilet tank (if you don't have a low-flow toilet).** Put an inch of sand in a quart bottle to weigh it down. Fill the rest with water and put it in your tank, away from the operating mechanism. In the average home, this may save five or more gallons each day.
- 5** **Take shorter showers.** Older shower-heads use five to ten gallons a minute.
- 6** **Install water-saving showerheads.** A quality water-saver showerhead provides a luxurious shower, yet uses no more than 2.5 gallons per minute. Ask your hardware retailer for advice.
- 7** **Take baths instead of showers.** A partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest shower.
- 8** **Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.**
- 9** **Check for leaks.** A simple small drip can waste 50 gallons a day!
- 10** **Wash only full loads in automatic washing machines and dishwashers.**
- 11** **Capture the water that runs while you wait for hot water.** Use it to water plants, or put it in the refrigerator so you can have nice, *cold* water whenever you want it.
- 12** **Turn off water while cleaning vegetables.** Rinse them in a sink half-filled with water.
- 13** **Keep drinking water in the refrigerator.** Don't run the tap to cool water.
- 14** **If washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running.** If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one, put clean dishes in a rack, then rinse with a sprayer or pan of water.
- 15** **Check faucets for leaks, which waste water 24 hours a day.** An inexpensive washer can usually stop leaks.

