

Using Water Wisely

Water is a natural resource we all share. People use water for many things—like drinking, washing, cleaning and swimming. As more people move to our region, we need more water to take care of their needs. Waterworks is working hard to make sure we have enough water for everyone, but water is still a limited resource.



That's why it's important for you to use water wisely and not to waste it. When you waste water, you're taking water that other people might need. But when you use water carefully, you leave more water for other people to use.

It is also important to use water carefully because our weather can be unpredictable. We rely on rain, sleet and snow to fill our river and reservoirs, but sometimes we can go for a long time without getting the rain we need. That's called a drought, and when we have a drought, we have to be even more careful to use water carefully.

That's what water conservation is all about — using water wisely and not wasting it.

You can conserve water by following these tips:

- Don't keep the water running while you're brushing your teeth
- Don't run the tap for a cold drink of water. Use ice cubes or keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator
- Take shorter showers or use less bath water. Make it a game. When you take your shower, keep a timer in the bathroom and see if you can get your shower down to five minutes... and still get clean!

Ask or help your mom or dad to:

- Fix a dripping faucet — it can waste as much as 20 gallons of water a day!
- Install a water-saving shower head.
- Water your lawn or garden early in the morning or late in the evening — you lose less to evaporation.
- Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and just quickly rinse with a hose at the end.

Impress your parents:

- Find water leaks you can't see. Here's how. Read your water meter. Then, don't use any water for a couple of hours. Read the meter again. If it has changed, you have a leak somewhere. Help your parents find the leak and fix it.