Water Conservation Tips For Oswego County Residents

REPAIR ALL LEAKS

A dripping faucet is more than annoying...it is expensive. Even small leaks can waste significant amounts of water...Hot water leaks are a waste of water and of the energy used to heat the water.

Leaks inside the toilet can waste up to 200 gallons a day. Toilet leaks can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to water in the toilet tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

If you have a leaking faucet or toilet, stop pouring money down the drain and repair it.

HOW TO SAVE WATER IN THE BATHROOM

The bathroom consumes 75% of our water usage. Controlling this flow is the key to big water and energy saving.

- When constructing a new home or remodeling your bathroom, install low consumption (1.6 gal/ flush) toilets. Older toilets use 3.5 to 6 gallons per flush.
- Place a weighted plastic gallon jug in the tanks of conventional toilets to displace and save an equal amount of water with each flush.
- Install low-flow aerators and shower heads. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and save water and energy.
- Do not let the faucet flow while brushing your teeth or shaving. Use a glass of water for rinsing teeth.
- Take showers instead of tub baths. Consider bathing small children together.
- If your shower has a single-handle control or shut-off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing.
- Leaking diverter valves (valves which divert water from the tub spout to the shower head) should be replaced.

HOW TO SAVE WATER IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

- Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water instead of letting a faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- Use a dishpan or plug the sink for washing and rinsing dishes. Install a low-flow aerator on all faucets.
- Pre-rinsing dishes prior to loading in a dishwasher only when they are fully loaded.
- Operate the washing machine and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded.
- Use the proper water level or load size selection on the washing machine
- When purchasing a washing machine or dishwasher, consider water consumption as well as energy efficiency. Most manufacturers now provide this information to consumers.

HOW TO SAVE WATER OUTSIDE THE HOME

The watering of lawns and gardens can double normal household water use during the hot, dry summer months. At standard household water pressures, a garden hose will discharge up to 6.5 gallons of water per minute. To apply an inch of water to 1,000 square feet of lawn or garden requires 620 gallons of water.

Watering should be limited to gardens and newly planted lawns and landscaped areas. Established lawns and landscape plantings will usually survive without watering. Inadequate watering encourages shallow root growth and increases the risk of mortality. When water is scarce, your community or individual water supply should be reserved for your most essential needs.

OVER

HOW TO SAVE WATER OUTSIDE THE HOME (CON'T)

The following water-saving measures should be practiced regularly, but remember, during mandatory water use restrictions, all water use outside the home is prohibited!

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps, and sidewalks.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket.
- If a hose must be used, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day. Do not water on windy days.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only. Do not water the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation by 20 to 50 percent.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- Use native plants in landscaping your lawn, because they require less care and water than ornamental varieties.

HOW TO CONSERVE WATER IN THE COMMUNITY

Encourage the use of water conservation devices by large water-using facilities such as schools, health clubs, motels and others.

- Survey water users within large water using facilities and develop plans to reduce water use.
- Encourage a community-based service organization such as a scout group, service club, or church youth group to start a water conservation program . Water conservation is a stewardship of our natural resources.
- Encourage use of drought tolerant vegetation in outdoor landscaping at large facilities and community sites.
- Retrofit older buildings and facilities with water-efficient plumbing fixtures.

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