



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

The increase in population growth, the expansion of industry and agriculture, and the potential for climate change impacts all place pressure on the province's water supply. Water conservation is critical in summer months, but year-round conservation has significant benefits as well. Reducing water consumption decreases the amount of water that requires treatment, as well as sewage and infrastructure costs.

How Much Water do You Use?

Use this [Water Calculator](#) to learn your water consumption.

Ways to Conserve Water:

Indoor

- Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth or shaving;
- Install a faucet aerator on your kitchen and bathroom sinks;
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket;
- Install a low-flow showerhead and take shorter showers;
- Install a low-flow or dual-flush toilet (check out this City Program);
- Rinse dishes, vegetables and fruits in a filled basin rather than under running water;
- Water your plants with leftover rinse water or water collected from a rain barrel;
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine;
- Keep a jug of water in the fridge for drinking to avoid running the water until it gets cold

Outdoor

- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning or late evening hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter, making sure to follow watering restrictions;
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation;
- Use a broom instead of a water hose to clean your driveway;
- Check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks;
- Raise the blade on your lawn mower to at least three inches high. Shorter grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water;
- Weed your lawn and garden regularly, as weeds compete with other plants for water;
- Wash your car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose;
- Collect water in a rain barrel for use on indoor and outdoor plants.

Do you Know How Much Water Some of the Daily Activities Consume?

Activity	Average Water Usage	Reduction Strategies
Brushing teeth	0.01 m ³ (10 litres) per day	Fill glass for rinsing instead of running water
Showering	0.15 m ³ (150 litres) for a 10-minute shower	Use water-saving showerheads Reduce shower time to 5 minutes
Bathing	At least 0.075 m ³ (75 litres) for each bath	Bath small children together
Flushing toilet	0.1 m ³ (100 litres) per person per day (Toilets account for 43% of daily indoor water consumption)	Install ultra-low-flow toilets Fix leaks
Washing clothes	0.17 m ³ (170 liters) per load	Install energy and water efficient models
Cooking	0.02 m ³ (20 litres) per day	Install low-flow aerators Cool water in refrigerator instead of running water until cold Wash fruits and vegetables in small bucket of water (re-use for watering plants)
Running dishwasher	0.06 m ³ (60 liters) per load	Run only full loads Install energy and water efficient models Wash by hand
Watering landscape	Over 1.3 m ³ (1,300 litres) per day	Use drip irrigation wherever feasible Water early in the morning and late evening Focus water where it is needed
Hosing driveway	0.55 m ³ (550 litres) each time	Reduce frequency (i.e. 1 / year). Consider using a leaf blower or sweeping
Washing car	Over 0.50 m ³ (500 litres) per car	Reduce frequency to zero as soon as drought level 2 arrives