

Water Conservation Tips

Why is Water Conservation Important?

Residential water use, from flushing the toilet to watering the lawn, is the fastest growing sector of water users across Canada. In fact, on a global basis, Canadians are second only to Americans in the amount of water we use! The average Canadian uses about 120,000 litres of water per year, about 330 litres per day. At least half of this water use is unnecessary and wasteful. Water is lost due to leaking faucets, old water-guzzling toilets, and excessive outdoor watering. One hour of lawn watering can use 1,500 litres of water.

When we conserve water we also reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we produce, since we use less hydro and natural gas.

Water Reduction Tips

In the Bathroom - Three-quarters of all the water you use in your home goes down your bathroom drains! The biggest single water-wasting is your toilet.

- Don't run the tap when you are brushing your teeth, shaving, washing up and cleaning. Fill a cup or the sink with some water and you could reduce water use for these tasks by 60 to 80 percent.
- Install faucet aerators. Standard faucet aerators can use up to 16 litres (3.5 gallons) of water per minute. Low flow faucet aerators can slash water use by half or more. They're reasonably priced and widely available at hardware and plumbing supply stores and easy to install.
- Never use the toilet as a garbage can. Dispose of all waste chemicals, cleaners and/or acids at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot days provided by the County
- Try taking short showers instead of baths.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. You'll save water and money.
For example, during a 6 minute shower you could save as much as 108 litres (24 gal) of water
- Replace your old water-wasting toilet with a new Ultra Low Flow toilet.



In the Kitchen - The water your use in your kitchen represents as much as 15% of your total indoor water use. Most of the water wasted in the kitchen results from allowing the kitchen taps to run freely while you wash dishes, fruits and vegetables, and clean surfaces. Following these simple water-saving tips can add up to big water-savings:

- Fully load your dishwasher; you may use less water than by washing dishes by hand. If you do wash dishes by hand only partially fill the sink(s).
- Install a faucet aerator. (see above)
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a partially filled sink instead of allowing water to run continually. A quick final rinse should be all that is necessary.
- Capture excess water in a container when you do have to run the tap. This can provide a sufficient supply of water for watering your plants.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator in a covered container instead of running the tap while waiting for water to get cold.
- Partially fill the sink or a container when cleaning the kitchen or rinsing cloths.
- Sink garbage disposal units waste water. These systems consume hundreds of litres of water each week. To save water and create a great soil conditioner for your garden, compost your kitchen waste.

In the Laundry Room - Accounts for the third highest use of water inside your home.

- Wash only full loads of laundry, but avoid overloading the machine.
- If your machine has an adjustable water-level indicator set the dial to use only as much water as is really necessary.
- If your machine has a "suds-saver" feature be sure to use it.

Remember! Lawn Watering Restrictions are in effect in Goderich

In the Garden - Water use more than doubles in the summertime. Over-watering of lawns and gardens wastes the most water outdoors.

- Water your lawn and garden efficiently. Half the water we put on our lawns is lost to runoff. Too much water actually damages the health of your grass. Applying a maximum of 2.5 cm. (1 inch) of water per week to lawns ensures deep root growth that helps your lawn stay healthy during hot, dry spells.
- Try to choose drought-resistant and native plant species for your gardens.
 - Collect rainwater in a rain barrel, and use it for lawn and garden watering. Set your sprinkler to avoid watering patios, drives and walks.
 - Use mulch on your gardens. Mulch is a protective covering of non-living material used on soil surfaces around plants. It keeps soil cool and moist, controls erosion and discourages weak growth.
 - Don't cut your grass too short. A height of 6 to 8 cm. (2.5 – 3 inches) is best and never cut more than one-third of the grass length. This encourages longer roots and shades the soil – reducing the loss of moisture through evaporation.

The daylily is drought-resistant



Other Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

- Use a bucket and sponge to wash and rinse your car so you will only need a light rinse to get rid of the soap. Wash your car on the grass so your lawn benefits from the water.
- Sweep your driveway and walkway instead of washing them with a hose.
- Recoil your hose on a hose reel to prevent damage and regularly check your hose for leaks.
- Cover your swimming pool when not in use to reduce evaporation.
- Use a bucket and squeegee to wash your windows.
- Operate decorative fountains only when you're there to enjoy them.
- When cleaning your outdoor ornamental pond use the waste water from your pond to water your lawn and gardens.



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Tips provided to you by the Town of Goderich.