



Town of Rising Sun

Residential Water Conservation Plan

Saving Money Starts within Your Household

KITCHEN (Accounts for up to 11% of the water usage in the home)	
#1.	When washing dishes by hand, use a sink full of soapy water -- don't let the water run
#2.	When rinsing dishes by hand, don't let the water run awhile. If you only have a single bowl sink, fill a bucket or large pot with water for rinsing.
#3.	Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
#4.	If using a dishwasher, only run when the unit is full or set the water level for the size of load you are using. This could save hundreds of gallons a month.
#5.	Cut back on rinsing if your dishwasher is new. Scrape food from your plates instead of rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
#6.	Start a compost pile or scrape food into the trash instead of running your garbage disposal, which requires a lot of water to work properly.
#7.	How long do you wait to get a cold drink of water out of the sink? Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks. The water is already cold and none of it is wasted going down the drain
#8.	Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
#9.	If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
#10.	Wash vegetables & fruits in a bowl or basin using a vegetable brush; don't let the water run.
#11.	The left over water used to rinse your vegetables & fruit is great for watering houseplants.
#12.	Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator. There are very inexpensive thawing plates that can do the trick.
#13.	Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients.
#14.	Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more water than may be necessary.
#15.	Some refrigerators and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. If it's time to replace them, consider replacing with air cooled appliances for significant water savings

BATHROOM

(Accounts for up to 75% of the water usage in the home)

#16.	Make sure your shower heads are water-efficient. Place a one gallon bucket in the shower. If your shower can fill this bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-saving showerhead that uses 2.5 gallons per minute or less They're inexpensive, easy to install and you can easily save up to 500 gallons per month
#17.	Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 500 gallons a month.
#18.	When taking a shower, turn the water off while you lather, shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
#19.	Showers generally use less water than baths. To compare the differences prepare a bath and note the final water level before you enter the bathtub. The next day plug the drain and take a shower. Exit the tub when you are done and compare the water level of the shower to the bath.
#20.	If you prefer a bath, plug the bathtub before turning the water on, there is plenty of time to adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
#21.	Take a bath in 6-inches of water. Think how much it takes to fill the bathtub all the way.
#22.	Replace older toilets with low-flow models to save up to 50%.
#23.	Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing. Plumbing leaks as a whole account for 14 percent of water consumed in the home, according to a study sponsored by the American Water Works Association. Depending on your use, that can equal \$20 per month of your money running down the drain
#24.	Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix. Did you know that a leaking toilet can waste up to 300 gallons per day?
#25.	Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
#26.	When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.
#27.	Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
#28.	Turn off the water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.
#29.	To save water & time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
#30.	Use towels more than once. Hang them up to dry and use them again rather than throwing them in the wash.

LAUNDRY

(Washing Machine usage accounts for up to 14% of the water usage in the home)

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| #31. | Run your washing machine only when they are full or set the water level for the size of load you are using. This could save 600 gallons a month. |
| #32. | Make sure your next clothes washer is a water-saver model. |
| #33. | Washing dark clothes in cold water saves on water and energy while helping clothes to keep their colors. |

LANDSCAPING & EXTERIOR GARDENING

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| #34. | Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year. |
| #35. | While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed. |
| #36. | Purchase a rain barrel to capture rainwater for use on your landscape. |
| #37. | Choose drought-tolerant plants when landscaping, and group plants with similar water needs together (hydrozoning). |
| #38. | More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary |
| #39. | Decorate areas of the yard that do not use water or won't grow grass with rocks, gravel, wood chips or other materials. |
| #40. | Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn. |
| #41. | Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface. |
| #42. | A general rule of thumb is to water a lawn 1-2 inches a week, however it is more effective to water turf by need and not by rule. |
| #43. | Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water |
| #44. | Water lawns during the early morning when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces evaporation and waste. |
| #45. | Stick to the watering schedule during the summer. Turn off your irrigation system in winter. |
| #46. | Hand-water with a hose where possible. Homeowners who water with a handheld hose can use one-third less water outdoors than those who use automatic sprinklers. |

#47	If you use a water sprinkler, how much water your sprinkler is applying? One inch of water on one square foot of grass equals two-thirds of a gallon of water. Measure how long it takes to reach this level by placing a tuna can under the spray of the sprinkler; start a timer, once the level of water in the can reaches one inch the testing is complete. You now know how long it takes to put an inch of water on your lawn. Remember you should water by need not by rule, but at least you can cut down on using too much water.
#48	Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives, adjust your watering needs accordingly.
#49	Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
#50	Use a timer on hose-end sprinklers to avoid overwatering.
#51	Water the lawn and the vegetation, not the driveway, street or sidewalk
KIDS COOLING OFF IN THE SUMMER	
#52	A running hose or sprinkler is not a toy for children. Letting children run through the spray to cool off in the summer is a huge waste of water.
#53	Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
#54	If you feel you must help your kids cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
SWIMMING POOLS	
#55	Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
#56	Use a cover when not in use for an extended time to reduce evaporation. A standard 16 ft x 24 ft x 5 ft deep uncovered pool can lose 1-3 feet of water per year due to evaporation. That is roughly 957 gallons of water!
#57	Fill your pool a few inches lower than usual.
#58	If the pool has an automatic refilling device, check the pool periodically for leaks.
#59	Do not overfill your pool. Water splashing while at play is simply wasting water
#60	Check for leaks around the pool pump, that require the pool to be filled more often
#61	Try to use Cartridge filters instead of sand filters. Cartridge filters can be dismantled and cleaned without having to backwash like a sand filter
#62	If using a sand filter, direct the backwash to plants & vegetation. Recycle the water.

WASHING YOUR CAR & EXTERIOR CLEAN UP

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| #63 | Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. (Like the local car wash in Rising Sun) |
| #64 | If you wash your own car, park on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. This can save up to 100 gallons at every washing |
| #65 | Clean your driveway or sidewalk with a broom, not a hose. |

PETS

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| #66 | When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer. |
| #67 | When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your house plants, gardens, trees or shrubs. |

GENERAL TIPS & MAINTENANCE

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| #68 | Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage. You could have a leak somewhere and not even know it! |
| #69 | Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst. |
| #70 | Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week. |
| #71 | We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks. A steady faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day |
| #72 | Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets. |
| #73 | <p>Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use. Below is the amount of water running for 24 hrs. based upon stream thickness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/32 inch stream (thickness of a finger nail) – waste 6,166 gallons per month. (cost of \$54) • 1/16 inch stream (thickness of a paper clip) - waste 24,700 gallons per month. (cost of \$216) • 1/8 inch stream (thickness of pencil) - waste 99,000 gallons per month. (cost of \$863) • 1/4 inch stream (thickness of a DVR case) - waste 400,000 gallons per month. (cost of \$3,488) |
| #74 | Make sure hot water pipes are insulated especially in unfinished basements and crawl spaces. Think how long you run the water to get it warm or hot. |
| #75 | When it is time to replace a hot water heater consider a “tankless” heater. Tankless heaters provide instant hot water, saving time, water and upwards of 60% on water heating bills. |

Do one thing each day to save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts.