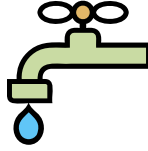


Water Conservation Tips

SAVE WATER. SAVE MONEY.



There are many little things that can add up to big water savings. Here are a few tips to help homeowners save water in a variety of ways, adapted from On Tap magazine, Summer 2007.

INSIDE THE HOME

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until the water gets cold.
- Fix leaks! After your meter is installed, if you do have a leak the meter will be able to detect it. The TCPUD will send a letter to all District water service customers when a leak is detected. Just by fixing a leaky toilet you can save as much as 500 gallons a day! Check toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second can add up to 2,700 gallons per year.
- Don't let the water run while brushing teeth or shaving. On average, you will save more than five gallons of water.
- Take shorter showers. A quick shower rather than a bath can save an average of 20 gallons of water. The EPA recommends taking a three to five- minute shower.
- Use both sides of the sink when washing dishes – one side to wash and the other to rinse. Don't wash dishes with the water running.
- Use the dishwasher and clothes washer only when you have full loads.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or cleaning around your home.

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- Use mulch around trees to keep soil moist and slow evaporation.
 - Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.
 - Wash cars with a bucket and hose with a shut off nozzle.
 - Water lawns and plants in the early morning or during the evening when there's less chance of rapid evaporation. Water your lawn only when it needs it and adjust sprinklers so you're not watering the sidewalk or street.
 - Consider removing your lawn and planting native trees and plants. According to the EPA the typical single family suburban household uses at least 30 percent of their water consumption outdoors for irrigation. Refer to the TRPA "Recommended Plant List" for a variety of plants that have been "proven" to work well in the Lake Tahoe with minimal supplemental water. This list is available in the "Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe & Vicinity," published by the University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension available at: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2006/eb0601.pdf>
- These tips can help to keep your water consumption down around your house and save hundreds, even thousands of gallons of water! And save money too!