

## **WATER SAVING TIPS FOR HOMES**

There are many ways to conserve water. Below, we have listed some quick and inexpensive ways to reduce water use in your home.

### **Saving Water in the Bathroom**

- Put trash (such as Kleenex) in the garbage instead of the toilet.
- Make sure toilet flappers and other parts are not leaking (toilet flappers should be replaced every 2 to 5 years).
- Install a displacement device in your toilet tank. This can be a homemade device by simply submerging a 1 litre plastic water bottle in your toilet tank uncapped, allowing water from the tank to fill the bottle. Once filled, cap the bottle and leave it in the tank making sure it is out of the way of the mechanisms. Each flush will then use one less liter of water, saving thousands of litres per day throughout the town.
- Replace showerheads with low-flow models.
- Take short showers instead of having a bath.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.

### **Saving Water in the Kitchen**

- Use your dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Scrape rather than rinse the food off dishes.
- Use one sink for washing and one for rinsing. If you only have one sink, rinse washed dishes with a sprayer or a pot of water.
- Clean vegetables and fruit in a partially filled sink, then rinse them quickly.
- Defrost food in the refrigerator rather than in the sink under running water.
- Keep a jug of drinking water in your refrigerator, this eliminates letting the water run to get cold and also helps for those that notice the taste or odour of chlorine in their water.

### **Saving Water in the Utility Room**

- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- If you must wash a small load of laundry, set the water-level indicator to “small”.
- Set your water softener based on values provided by the Utility.
- Have your water softener serviced if water drains from the softener when it isn't recycling.
- Re-use water collected from your dehumidifier to water plants or for other activities that don't require potable water.

## **OUTDOOR WATER SAVING TIPS**

When the weather warms up, our thoughts all turn to outdoor activities and enjoying the sunshine. However, **in the summer, we use 20% more water** than during the rest of the year, most of which goes to our lawns and gardens.

- Raise your mower up a notch – longer grass is less likely to dry out
- Use permeable surfaces like gravel or stones rather than pavement so that more water on your property reaches the soil
- Water during the early morning hours or late evening when evaporation isn't as likely.
- Use organic mulch around plants and beds to keep moisture in.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean off driveways and sidewalks.
- Check hoses and outdoor faucets for leaks and repair promptly.
- Direct downspouts towards shrubs and trees.
- Install a rain barrel and use rainwater rather than tap water for watering lawns and gardens.
- Water your plants only when necessary.
- Avoid lawn-watering all together, except in cases where new sod is being established or grass seed has been planted, there shouldn't be any need for watering.
- Give your car a sponge bath, not a shower. Wash your car with a bucket and sponge rather than running the hose continuously.
- Install covers on pools and hot tubs to lessen evaporation.
- Check for leaks in pool pumps and repair promptly.
- Ensure that any water feature you install recirculates water.
- For outdoor play ensure that hose is turned off when not in use.