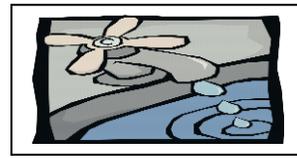


WATER-WISE CONSERVATION

~Drop-by-Drop~



Here are some simple ways to promote water conservation in your home and in your community.

~KITCHEN~

- For cold drinks, keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap every time to get cool water. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. Consider other ways you can cut down on the number of dishes need to be washed.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly during times of water conservation.

~BATHROOM~

- Shorten your shower, each time, every time. When you shorten your shower by a minute or two, you'll save up to 150 gallons per month. Consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower to save even more water.
- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up. When possible, bathe your young children together to save on water.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving. In addition, when you are washing your hands, turn off the water while lathering.
- Be sure the toilet is not flushed unnecessarily and "other" wastes such as cigarette butts, unwanted prescription, over the counter medications, coffee grounds, cooking fats, paper towels, disposable diapers, personal hygiene products, facial tissues, and similar non-decomposable, unnecessary materials are not flushed down the toilet.
- If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device (such as a brick) in the tank.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets immediately. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.

~LAUNDRY~

- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. When doing smaller loads of laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Wash clothes in cold water to save on water and energy and help clothes keep their color.
- Distribute wash loads evenly throughout the week. Try to avoid washing all your clothes on the weekend to avoid system overload.

~OUTDOORS~

- Do not wash your car unless you must do it to help you see out the windows. If you must wash your vehicle, use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.

~MISCELLANEOUS~

- Setting water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- **Route roof drains and basement drainage tile water (sump pumps) to areas other than into the sewer system.**
- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants. Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, and then reuse it to water houseplants.
- Consider other ways you can conserve water. For example, when painting, do not clean off paintbrushes under running water.
- While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels and clothes.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

Please share these water conservation tips with your family, friends, neighbors, and employees.



Remember: There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with YOU.

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For use in Ramsey, Benson, Eddy, Pierce, Rolette, Towner and Cavalier Counties
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