



Home water conservation • tips



Water Meter

- Monitor your water bill and/or water meter to detect leaks faster. Higher water use is often the result of silent leaks
- Turn your taps off and check your meter. If it's still moving, you could have a leak



Toilets

- Replace older toilets with high efficiency models (4.8 litres or less per flush and WaterSense labelled)
- Check toilet and toilet flappers for leaks at least twice a year and anytime you hear your toilet running. To check:
 1. Add a few drops of food colouring to your toilet tank
 2. Wait 15 minutes
 3. If water in your toilet bowl has changed colour, you have a leaking toilet flapper



Showers

- Shorten your showers to 4-8 minutes – this has big potential to save water
- Replace your showerhead with a more efficient model (7.6 litres per minute or less) with the WaterSense label



At the Faucet

- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth
- Check for drips or leaks. Don't forget outside and in the basement
- Replace any tap aerators with more efficient, WaterSense labelled products



Washing Dishes

- A full load in the dishwasher is more efficient than in the sink. Try skipping a pre-rinse unless necessary
- Fill the sink rather than letting water run while washing vegetables or cleaning dishes by hand



Look for products with the WaterSense or Energy Star logos



In the Laundry Room

- When replacing your washing machine look for a high-efficiency, Energy Star labelled machine
- Ensure your laundry loads are full or set your machine to the appropriate load size. This saves water and energy – both will save you money



Water Softeners

- Consider changing your water softener plumbing to soften your home's hot water only
- Leaks can make water softeners into high water users. Listen for water running when the softener is not recharging; there should not be any
- When buying a new softener, choose a high-efficiency model that regenerates only when needed. Look for one certified to the NSF/ANSI 44 standard



Outdoor Water Use

- Water on the right day and time as set out by the Region of Waterloo's Water Conservation By-law
- Water your lawn less. Lawns can live four to six weeks without water
- Choose plants native to our climate that thrive with little water
- Position your sprinkler to avoid watering patios, driveways and walkways
- Sweep driveways and walkways with a broom instead of using a hose



Get more tips and recommendations:

- www.epa.gov/watersense for information about WaterSense products
- www.energystar.gov for lists of energy and water efficient appliances
- www.watersoftenerfacts.ca for information about water softeners and a map of water hardness zones in the Region of Waterloo and Guelph

Learn more about the Region of Waterloo's Water Efficiency programs at
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/conservation

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