



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION**

### **Check faucets and pipes for leaks**

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

### **Avoid using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket**

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.

### **Check your toilets for leaks**

Place a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

### **Install water-saving shower heads, low-flow faucet aerators**

Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Also, long, showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute.

### **Insulate your hot water pipes.**

It is easy and inexpensive to insulate your hot water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You will get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

### **Rinse your razor in the sink**

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

### **Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads**

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings. With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 20 liters (5 gallons) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, remember to adjust water levels to match the size of the load.

### **Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units**

In-sink 'disposals' require significant amounts of water in order to operate properly.

### **Consider keeping a bottle of drinking water in the fridge**

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water can be wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle.

### **Consider letting your lawn go dormant**

During dry spells, you can stop watering altogether and the lawn will go dormant. Once cooler weather arrives, the morning dew and rainfall will bring the lawn back to its usual vigor. This may result in a brown summer lawn, but it saves a significant amount of water.

### **Avoid letting the hose run while washing your car and using a broom instead of a hose**

Clean the car using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose with a control nozzle for rinsing - this simple practice can save as much as 150 gallons when washing a car. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.