

# WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

## *Save Water and Money by Following these Tips:*

### Outside

- Do not leave sprinklers unattended. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn sprinklers off.
- Water slowly to reduce runoff and to allow deep penetration.
- Dig out water-loving weeds and cultivate soil often.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater. Rainwater is free and is better for your plants because it doesn't contain hard minerals.
- Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from these areas.
- Use a shutoff nozzle on your hose that can be adjusted down to a fine spray so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the spigot instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks. A garden hose without a shutoff nozzle can pour out 530 gallons of water in an hour.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass, use a bucket of soapy water and use a hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- Avoid the installation of ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless the water is recycled.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.
- Cover your spa or pool to reduce evaporation.

### Inside

#### **In the bathroom:**

- Flush less — remember the toilet is not an ashtray or wastebasket.
- While brushing teeth, shaving, etc., turn off the water.
- When cold water will do, avoid using hot water.
- Take shorter showers — 5 minutes or less.
- In the shower, wet yourself down, turn the water off, lather up, then turn the water on to rinse off soap.
- Use less water for bathing — close the drain first and fill tub only one-third full. That initial burst of cold water will be warmed by the hot water as the tub fills.

#### **In the kitchen:**

- Operate the dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Scrape, don't rinse, your dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- When purchasing a dishwasher, consider a water-efficient model.
- Use your garbage disposal sparingly and start composting your kitchen waste.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run while you wait for cool water to flow.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the rinsing sink to one-third or one-half full — avoid letting the water run continuously in the rinsing sink.

#### **In the laundry:**

- For washers with variable settings for water volume, select the minimum amount required per load.
- If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads only.
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads; normal and permanent press wash cycles use more water.
- Check hoses regularly for leaks.
- Pretreat stains to avoid rewashing.

#### **Additional tips:**

- Install instant water heaters in bathrooms and in the kitchen so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up.
- Insulate your water pipes — you'll get hot water faster, plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
- Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.
- Replace leaky drain plugs in sinks and bathtubs.