

## BE WISE WITH WATER

**Our view of water is clear ...** The Town of Black Diamond believes that helping our residents become more water efficient is an important goal. We are pleased to provide this water-saving information guide. We sincerely hope you find the information contained in it to be both informative and useful. Helping our customers become more water efficient is one of our primary goals. **Be Water Wise ..!**

Webster's New World Dictionary care and protecting of natural not mean to curtail water use, our water resource in an "doing more with less" applies

It is easy to take water for the tap, water comes out - pure, most of us don't realize is that out of the tap has been taken from nature, and carefully treated to remove impurities and make it safe for drinking. Processing all that water is an expensive job.



Conservation is defined in as a noun meaning, "the official resources." Conservation does but to eliminate waste and use efficient manner. The idea of very well to conservation.

granted. Whenever we turn on clean, drinkable water. What every drop of water that comes

Fresh water is essential for life on this planet. Did you know that 97% of the Earth's water is contained in our oceans; an additional 2% is locked up in glaciers and icecaps; and **less than one half of one percent is available as fresh water**. It is this small amount that supplies nature, and keeps all of the world's agricultural, manufacturing, community, personal, household and sanitation needs operating.

Much of that fresh water goes onto our lawn, into washing machines and dishwashers and down toilets and drains. You pay for every drop whether you drink it or flush it, or even if it leaks from your taps and/or toilets.

When you save water, you are also saving on other services at the same time. It is a win-win situation. When you use less hot water, less energy is needed to heat that water which lowers your gas bill. You can also reduce your wastewater bill by reducing the amount of water you use.

Being wise with water begins at home. Water conservation doesn't mean that we have to follow strict rules and cramp our current lifestyles: - it only means **being more aware and reducing the amount of water that we waste**. By following the tips suggested on this page, you will be able to reduce water waste; reduce water and energy costs (which means more dollars left in your pocket!); and at the same time help to improve the environment.

**Money in your pocket** ...How much water your family can save will depend on the number of water-using appliances in your home and, most importantly, how you use them. Here are some examples of the money that can be kept in your pocket by following the tips on this page.

Bathroom - converting to a low-flow toilet and showerhead could save you 2000 liters a week - a savings of \$ 81 per year for water fees .

Using a washing machine and dishwasher more efficiently could save you 100 liters a week - a total savings of \$ 5 per year. Following the tips outlined for the outdoors could result in a savings of about 1000 liters a week - a savings of about \$18 for the twenty growing weeks. In total that is an annual savings of approximately **\$105.00!**

**Extra cash in your pocket, YES! AND the impact on the environment is huge - a savings of more than 135 000 liters of water per year for each household.**

**Tips for the Bathroom** ...There are many small steps that can add up to big savings in your bathroom. It is where we use - and waste - the most water in our homes.

Your toilet can be responsible for 90% of all leaks. To find out if your toilet has a leak, drop some food coloring in your toilet tank and wait. If you see the color flowing into your toilet bowl, you have a water-wasting leak! A leaking toilet can waste more than 400 liters of water each day (an additional \$114 of wasted plumber or hardware store a leak - everything from a possibly replacing your old



water each year)! Talk to your about the many options to correct very inexpensive flapper valve to toilet with a new low-flow toilet.

Check all faucets. A leaky washer. You can also install aerators available at any showers. Research shows 8 minutes and have flow

faucet may simply need a new high-efficiency, low flow faucet local hardware store. Take shorter that typical showers last for around rates of around 9 litres / minute.

By shortening your shower duration by 1 minute could save you a few extra dollars each year, per person! Replace your showerhead with a low flow version available at any local hardware store.

Don't let water run away on you. When brushing your teeth or shaving, don't let the tap run. Fill a glass with water for rinsing when brushing your teeth. Rinse your razor by filling the sink with a small amount of warm water.

**Tips for the Kitchen** ...Run your automatic dishwasher only when it is full, and use the energy saver or shortest cycle. Simply reducing the number of dishwasher cycles by 1 each week could save an extra few dollars and that's not even talking about energy costs!



don't let the tap run continuously. with rinse water. Turn your taps off drip.

When washing dishes by hand, Fill the second side of the sink tightly, but gently so they don't

in the fridge instead of running the each time you want some. Be sure change the water every few days. waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can often be repaired with an inexpensive washer.

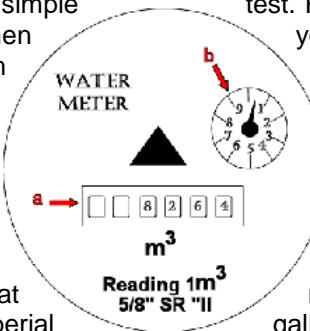
**Tips for the utility room** ...By following these simple tips, you will not only be saving water, but saving on your energy bills as well. An automatic washing machine can use from 150 to 250 liters of water for each cycle. That's about 20% of total indoor water use. Most washers allow you to adjust the amount of water according to the size of the wash load. If yours doesn't, just make sure you have a full load before washing.

Up to 90% of the energy used for washing clothes goes to heating the water. Try washing your clothes in either warm or cold water. Your clothes will come out just as clean as if you used hot water. If you are looking to buy a new washing machine, make sure you look into the water-efficient ones. Depending on the model, they can use as much as 40% less water!

**Check for leaks** ...The number one way to start saving water is to check for leaks! To find out if your home has a leak, try this simple test. Read your water meter before you go to bed, then check it first thing when you wake up. (Make sure no one was up break!) If the meter does not move have no leaks.

A 1/8 inch (3.175 mm) hole will cause a leak of 985,892 year.

A 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) hole at cause a leak of 3,936,760 imperial



at normal household water pressure imperial gallons a year or \$ 3499.92 /

normal household water pressure will gallons a year or \$ 13,975.49 / year.

**Tips for the Outdoors** ...We all want to be the envy of the neighbors with a nice lush lawn and prospering garden. Unfortunately, this is one of the biggest impacts on our water consumption. This doesn't have to be the case. The average city lawn may need about 100,000 liters of water in a growing season. Ironically, we often water overnight only to have it run off down the street or during the day to have it burn off with the sun. How many times have you seen an unattended sprinkler watering a driveway or the sidewalk?

Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning after the dew has dried is generally the best time to water rather than dusk, since it helps to prevent growth of fungus. Watering in the early morning also cuts down on losses due to evaporation.

When it comes to watering plants and flowerbeds, drip irrigation is the most effective method. With drip irrigation, porous tubes deliver small quantities of water directly to the root zone. If you use a sprinkler for your lawn, choose the type that spins in a circle. The oscillating types that cycle back and forth apply water in a fine spray straight up part of the time, leading to higher evaporation losses.

Water from the sky is free! Take advantage of it by using cisterns, barrels or buckets to collect water for other uses (plants, animals, etc.). Deep soak your lawn. Water long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.

Using a running hose to wash of water! Use a bucket with a of water! Use a broom to instead of a hose. When the use the water for the lawn,



your car can waste about 400 liters sponge - it will save about 300 liters clean your sidewalks and driveway kids are done using the wading pool, garden or flowers.

When landscaping, use You can also decorate your patio and lawn very fashionably with decorative rocks, gravel and benches. Check with local garden centers for advice on what to plant. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation and discourage weed growth too.

drought resistant trees and plants.

**Keep in Mind:** Storm sewers are designed to quickly collect and carry rain water to a creek, or pond. As the water is running off, it picks up pollutants such as litter, pet excrement, fertilizer, and pesticides. This polluted water is quickly transported directly into our streams without any treatment. That can end up causing a lot of damage to the environment.