

### Lawn Care Tips

- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper and shades the root system.
- Avoid over fertilizing your lawn.

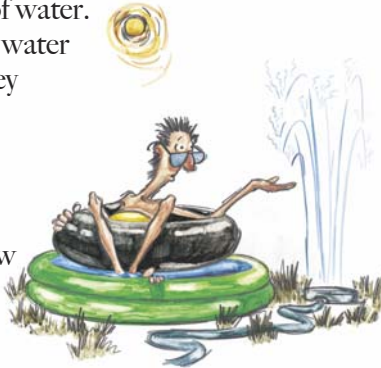
### Landscaping Tips

- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil
- Plant native and drought tolerant plants.
- Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- But a rain gauge to determine how much rain or irrigation your yard has received.

### Other Tips

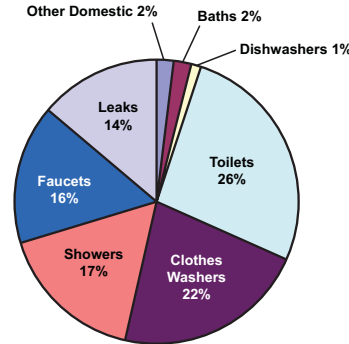
### Pool

- If you have a pool, use the cover to reduce evaporation.
- Fill pool a few inches lower than usual.
- Avoid water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- Don't install or use water fountains unless they use recycled water.
- Consider buying a pool filter that uses less water during cleaning. Some new filters waste no water at all.



### Water Facts

The average U.S. household uses 350 gallons of water per day, according to the American Water Works Association. Depending on the region, households use 20 to 62 percent of that total outdoors on lawns, pools, and similar outdoor recreation. Indoors, homeowners can reduce water use by about 30 percent by installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks. Here is where water goes in our homes (numbers are rounded).



### Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Rockford Water Division – Water Quality Section  
1111 Cedar St  
Rockford, IL 61102  
(779) 348-7151

For more information, visit our website at [www.rockfordil.gov](http://www.rockfordil.gov)

# Water Conservation

Every Drop Counts!



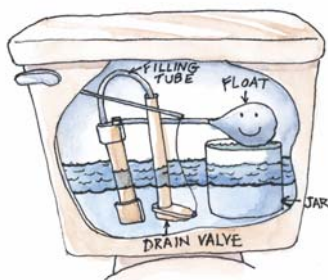
# Water Conservation

Every Drop Counts

## Water Wasters in the Bathroom and Kitchen – Be Watchful

### Toilet Tips

- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the back tank. Do not flush. If the toilet is leaking the food color should appear in the bowl within 1 hour. Repeat this test on occasion as sometimes a defective flap will seal and sometimes it will not.



- Don't use your toilet as a trash can. Unnecessary flushing wastes water.
- Consider purchasing low flow toilets or install a water displacement device.

### Shower/Bath Tips

- Replace your showerhead with a low-flow version, saving 2.5 gallons per minute.
- In the shower instead of increasing the hot or cold water to adjust the



water temperature, try decreasing the flow to achieve a comfortable water temperature.

- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.

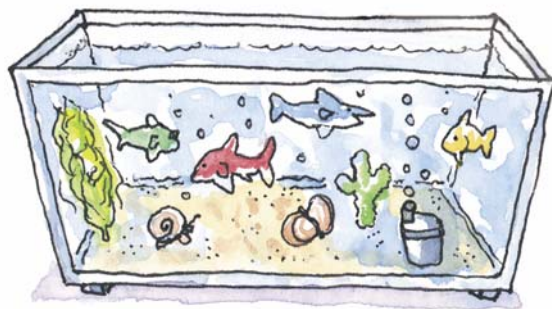


### Other Indoor Water Wasters

- Adjust the amount of water used in the washing machine according to load size.
- To maintain water softness, run the minimum amount of regenerations necessary. Turn off water softeners while on vacation.
- As you replace appliances, buy the ones that have water saving features.

### Divert from the Drain

- Think about the water you are putting down the drain. Use it for watering a plant, garden or cleaning.
- Reuse fish tank water on your household plants. It makes a nice fertilizer too.



### Maintenance Tips

- Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Check your water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drip per second, that amounts to 2,700 gallons per year!

### Outdoor Water Wasters

- Don't over water your lawn. Generally, lawns only need water every 5 to 7 days in the summer. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks.



- Water lawns when temperature and wind speed are at their lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation.
- Don't leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.