

Town of

Smyrna

Tennessee



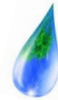
WATER CONSERVATION

The Town of Smyrna has initiated a Water Conservation Program aimed at educating our citizens on the need for conserving our water and the methods for doing so.

Below is a list of **50** methods you can easily use everyday to save water indoors, outdoors, and in general.

Remember, no matter how small a change you make.....**EVERY DROP COUNTS!!!**

SAVING WATER INDOORS



1. Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read 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. Saves 400 gallons per month.
2. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. This adds to the cost of water and sewer utilities.
3. Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or for cleaning.
4. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Set the water level for the size of the load you are using. Saves 300-800 gallons per month.
5. Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for cool water to flow this is wasteful. Saves 200-300 gallons per month.
6. Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave. Saves 50-150 gallons a month.
7. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Saves 50-150 gallons a month.
8. When washing dishes by hand--and that's the best way--don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run. Also, use the least amount of detergent possible, this minimizes rinse water needed. Saves 200-500 gallons a month.
9. Kitchen sink garbage disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Instead of using a garbage disposal, start a compost pile as an alternative method of disposing of food waste. Saves 50-150 gallons a month.
10. Scrape, don't rinse your dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
11. When purchasing a dishwasher, consider a water-efficient model.
12. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as test is done since food coloring may stain tank.)
13. If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.
14. Install a displacement device (a brick or a bottle) in the tank of your commode to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush. Be sure that the device does not interfere with the operating parts. Saves 5-10 gallons a day, that's up to 300 gallons a month, even more for large families.
15. Take shorter showers. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. A four minute shower uses approximately 20-40 gallons a water. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
16. If you're taking a shower don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet. Saves 200-300 gallons a month.
17. Take showers instead of baths, showers use less water.
18. 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.
19. Replace leaky drain plugs in sinks and bathtubs.
20. Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats.
21. Don't let the water run while shaving, washing your face or brushing your teeth. Brush your teeth first while waiting for the water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin. Saves 3 gallons each per day.
22. Don't use your toilet as a trash can or ashtray. Put all trash and cigarette butts in your trash can, don't flush down the toilet. Each time you flush 5-7 gallons of water is wasted.

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

23. Water lawns during the early morning hours when the temperatures are at the lowest of the day. This reduces losses from evaporation. Can save up to 300 gallons each time.
24. Don't over-water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. Most lawns only need about 1 inch of rain a week; buy a rain gauge to measure rainfall.
25. Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers. Can save up to 300 gallons each time.
26. Avoid installation of ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless the water is recycled.
27. Position sprinklers so that water is aimed towards the lawn, not the street, driveway or walkways.
28. Avoid watering on windy days. There is too much evaporation. Can waste up to 300 gallons in one watering.
29. Install Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses to help maximize conservation.
30. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizer applications increase the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water soluble forms of nitrogen.
31. Raise the lawn mower blade to three inches or more: Taller grass encourages deeper root systems and holds soil moisture better than shorter grass.
32. Apply mulch to retain moisture and control water-consuming weeds.
33. Plant native grasses or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Once established, they do not need water as frequently and usually will survive a dry period without watering.
34. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from driveways and walkways. Don't use your water hose.
35. Do not leave sprinklers unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more water in only a few hours. Use a kitchen timer to monitor usage.
36. Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water.
37. When washing your car park it on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
38. Check the leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not visible; they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.
39. If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals. Saves 1000 gallons a month.
40. If you have a pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter. A single backflushing with a traditional filter uses 180-250 gallons of water.

GENERAL WATER SAVING-TIPS

41. Get involved in water management issues. Voice your questions and concerns at public meetings.
42. Support efforts and programs that create a concern for water conservation among tourists and visitors to Smyrna. Be sure that visitors understand the need for, and benefits of, water conservation.
43. Participate in water conservation projects in the schools.
44. Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
45. Promote neighborhood water conservation efforts: Create community newsletters, bulletin boards and lead by example.
46. Patronize businesses which practice and promote water conservation, such as restaurants that only serve water upon request.
47. Be aware of and follow all Smyrna water conservation and water shortage suggestions and policies. Never assume -- that you do not need to observe good water-use rules. **Every drop counts.**
48. Encourage your employer to promote water conservation in the workplace, perhaps through employee training programs.
49. Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers) to property owners or local authorities.
50. Try to do one thing every day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. You can make a difference!

EVERY DROP COUNTS!!

Thank you for being "Water Savers" for the Town of Smyrna.