



City of Lawrence

Tips for Using Water Wisely

INDOOR TIPS



- **Take short showers.** Decreasing showers to under 5 minutes can reduce monthly consumption up to 1,000 gallons each month.
- Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. **This also reduces energy costs.**
- Only **wash full loads** of dishes and clothes.
- **Shut off the faucet while brushing teeth;** this can save up to 4 gallons per minute.
- **Flush the toilet only when necessary.** Don't use it to flush tissues.
- Repair leaky toilets and faucets. **One drip every second adds up to 5 gallons per day.**



OUTDOOR TIPS

- Use a soaker hose** to water plants more efficiently. ←
- Only water landscaping and lawns **at night.** ←
- Leave lawn clippings on your grass,** ←
this cools the ground and holds in moisture.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard** by planting shrubs ←
and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
- Avoid hosing down outside areas** such as sidewalks, ←
patios, and driveways; instead use a broom.
- Limit car washing at home** or use ←
commercial car washes that recycle water.

Please check out this site for additional tips on how you can use water wisely: wateruseitwisely.com.

Leaks can account for up to 14% of all water use.

Finding and repairing leaks in the home is **an** important step **in** using water wisely. A **vital key to** leak detection is monitoring the water bill for unusually high **Usage**.



FAUCETS

Worn washers in household faucets and showerheads are a common cause of household leaks. A **single** faucet leaking at the rate of **one drip every second can add up to five gallons per day!** All faucets, **including** seldom-used taps in the basement and storage rooms, should be checked periodically.

TIPS

- ◆ Faucet leaks are usually caused by worn washers or “O” rings.
- ◆ To repair a faucet leak, turn off the water supply line to that faucet, replace the washer, and turn on the water line again.



TOILETS

Toilet leaks **can waste thousands of gallons of water** in a month, because the leaks tend to be less noticeable than faucet leaks.

TIPS

- ◆ If you can hear or see water running into the bowl, the toilet is leaking
- ◆ Silent leaks can also occur. Be sure to test for silent leaks at least once a year.

How to test a toilet for a silent leak:



- Add food coloring into the tank. Do not flush. Wait for 10 minutes.
- If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl there **is** a leak. The leak could be a result of **a worn out** plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank.