

Fun Facts

About Water Conservation



Water: Essential for life

Water. Access to safe, clean, quality water is essential to a high quality of life. Though we tend to take it for granted, it takes a lot of work to make sure that water is clean and safe.

It takes miles of water mains and tons of water tank storage to make sure that drinkable water will appear from our taps on demand. It takes money and resources to produce and distribute high quality water to your home, office, and other facilities. It is not an infinite resource. Everyone pays for water, whether they waste it or use it wisely. Saving water can literally save you money.

Inside this issue

PAGE 1

Water: Essential for Life

Don't let Water Run Away From You

PAGE 2

Are you Flushing Money Down the Toilet?

Shower or Bath?

Save Water and Money

Fun Facts is provided by the Board of Water Commissioners, 1900 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55113-6810. 651-266-6350. ci.stpaul.mn.us/water. Co-edited by Helga Kessler and Jodi L. Wallin © 2004. Distributed free to Saint Paul Regional Water Services customers.

Don't let water run away from you

Letting water run from your faucet pours good water, and your hard-earned money, right down the drain.

To reduce water waste, turn on your faucet only when needed.

Turn off the tap while:

- ◆ Shaving
- ◆ Brushing teeth
- ◆ Rinsing dishes
- ◆ Washing fruits and vegetables
- ◆ Getting a drink of water

In many cases, sewer rates are tied to how much water you

use. So, running water that you aren't using could be money wasted in two ways.

Best bets:

◆ Keep a pitcher of cold drinking water in the refrigerator.

◆ Rinse your razor in the sink, not under running water.

◆ Fill the sink with water to rinse off fruits and vegetables, or to rinse dishes.

◆ Wet your toothbrush, then turn off the water until you need to rinse out your mouth.



Are you flushing money down the toilet?

Every time you flush your toilet, you use about seven gallons of water. Reduce that amount by filling a plastic soap or laundry bottle with water and place it in your tank, away from the flushing mechanism. Check to see what water level works best; displacing so much water you have to flush twice isn't saving water!

Best bets:

Don't use the toilet for flushing away bugs, garbage, diapers, tissues, feminine products, etc. It's like disposing

of a tissue by throwing six or seven buckets of water at it.

Leaks:

Toilet leaks are usually silent and often expensive. A toilet leak can quietly waste hundreds of gallons of water a day.

Best bet:

Instead of waiting for a high water bill, check for leaks periodically: Add food coloring into the tank and wait 30 minutes. If color has seeped into the toilet bowl, you have a leak.



Shower or bath?

Taking a shower uses less water than taking a bath, right? Only if you spend less than 10 minutes under the running water.

Showers use between 5 and 10 gallons of water per minute, totaling 100-200 gallons in a 20 minute shower.



Best bet:

Shorter showers or a partially filled tub for a quick bath will save you water and money.

Save water and money

Five easy ways to reduce waste

(Note: Numbers are approximate water savings as a percentage of your total interior water use.)

- ◆ Put plastic bottles or water dams in the toilet reservoir, or install low-water use toilets (18 percent)
- ◆ Use low-flow showerheads (12 percent)
- ◆ Do laundry with low-water use clothes washers (5 percent)
- ◆ Put insulation on your hot water lines (4 percent)
- ◆ Put low-flow aerators on your faucets (2 percent)



Source: Corbitt, Robert A. "Standard Handbook of Environmental Engineering." McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1989.