# WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

## Bathroom: Accounts for nearly half of the daily household consumption

**Toilets:**

- The average person flushes the toilet 4 to 6 times a day. Most new toilets on the market since 1994 are engineered for low volume and use 1.6 to 3 ½ gallons per flush. Toilets marketed before 1994 use about 5 to 7 gallons per flush.
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Check for toilet leaks and repair immediately. Usually you cannot hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank.

  - ✓ Lift the lid from your toilet tank.
  - ✓ Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank. Do not use dye, it could stain.
  - ✓ Do not flush or disturb the toilet for one or two hours. (A larger leak will show immediately.) At the end of the waiting period, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank shows in the bowl, you have a leak

  Most frequently, leaks in toilets are caused by a defective flush valve. A flush valve is a flap or ball plunger device that is supposed to act as a stopper in the bottom of your toilet tank. After several years and many flushings, the stopper can be knocked out of shape or simply worn out. See your hardware dealer or plumber and obtain an inexpensive and easy to install replacement valve or complete replacement kit.

**Bathing:**

- A shower generally uses less water than a bath.
- Do your showering and hair washing in one step.
- Fill the tub 1/4 full. This is enough to cover an adult's body or float a child's toy.
- Most showers can be fitted with a flow restrictor or low-volume head to conserve water.
- Don't turn the shower on until you're ready to step in.

**Sink:**

- Don't leave water running while washing your face, shaving or brushing your teeth.
- An electric razor uses less energy than it takes to heat up the water for razor shaving.

## Kitchen and Laundry: Accounts for twenty-five percent of daily household water use with much of the water being wasted.

**Cooking:**

- Remove frozen foods from freezer before you're ready to use them so you won't have to use running water to hasten thawing.
- Always use lids on pots and pans.
- Use the smallest amount of water possible in cooking to save both water and nutrients. Most frozen vegetables require about 1/2 to 1 cup of water, not half a saucepan.
- Rather than letting the water run while peeling vegetables, rinse them briefly at the beginning and end of the chore.
- Don't let the faucet run for a cold drink. Keep a jug of water cooling in the refrigerator.

**Washing Dishes:**

- When washing dishes by hand, use a stopper in the sink and don't rinse with running water.
- Use low-sudsing detergents – they require less rinsing.
- Adding 1/4 to 1/2 cup of vinegar to your wash water cuts grease more readily than hot water alone.
- Run your dishwater only when you have a full load, since each load uses from 12 to 17 gallons of water.
- Use the prewash, rinse-hold and scrub cycles of your dishwasher only when necessary.