WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

Kitchen and Laundry Continued

Laundry:

- If your washer has a variable load control, always adjust water levels to fit the size of the load. This saves both water and the energy needed to heat the extra hot water.
- Run your washer when you have a full load.
- When buying a new washing machine, look for models with water or energy-saving controls.

All around the House

- Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- Use a broom, not the hose, to clean the garage, sidewalks and driveway. Wash the car from a bucket. Use the hose to rinse it off afterwards.
- Insulate the water heater. Pay special attention to the insulation qualities of the shell. Avoid buying a larger tank than is necessary for your needs.

Lawn and Yard

- Morning is the best time to water most lawns. Before 10:00 am is best of all because rising heat later on tends to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Another benefit is that grass blades have a chance to dry off quickly. Evening or nighttime watering leaves the grass wet and allows lawn diseases to develop.
- A lush green lawn requires 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water a week. Water three times a week applying about 1/2 inch at a time. Keep in mind the amount of rainfall that might fall on your yard and adjust your watering schedule accordingly.
- If you let your grass grow to about 1 1/2 to 2 inches in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots.
- Avoid watering when windy or in the heat of the day.
- Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended. Use a timer as a reminder when it's time to move or turn off the sprinkler.
- Lawns that are frequently aerated absorb water better.
- High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water requirements.
- Thatch build-up on a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Every spring the lawn should be raked and dead grass removed.
- Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than those with a fine high spray.
- Forget about watering streets, walks, and driveways. They don't grow a thing.
- Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
- When possible, flood irrigate vegetables and flower gardens rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in a high evaporation loss of water.

WATER USE HABITS

	TYPICAL USAGE	GOOD WATER SAVING HABIT
Showering	20-40 gallons (5 gals per minute)	5 gallons (wet down, soap up, rinse off)
Tub Bathing	36 gallons (full)	10 –15 gallons (low-level)
Toilet Flushing	6 gallons	1.6 gallon with new standard toilet
Teeth Brushing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 pint (wet, brush, rinse briefly)
Hand Washing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Shaving	3 - 5 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Dish Washing	20 gallons (tap running)	5 gallons (wash, rinse, in pan or sink)
Dishwasher	15 gallons (full cycle)	Do only full loads
Clothes Washer	36 – 60 gallons (full cycle)	Do only full loads
Outdoor Watering	5 – 10 gallons per minute	Be sensible