

# Water Watch



## Wise Water Use

In Orem, every person uses an average of 254 gallons of water each day. Between watering the yard, filling the swimming pool or hot tub and washing the car, outdoor water use consumes about half the water used in a typical single-family home.

Because grass uses the most water, an easy way to cut outdoor water needs is to reduce the size of lawn - especially in the front yard, which is seldom used for family recreational activities. Other ways to reduce grass is to replace some lawn with patios, decks, or water-thrifty ground covers.

Xeriscape is the conservation of water and other natural resources through water efficient landscaping design and management. It is a popular way for citizens to cut outdoor water use by as much as 50 percent.

While half the residential water is used outdoors, big savings also can be



made indoors - especially in the bathroom. A traditional toilet can be the biggest water-using fixture in the house, consuming 4 to 7 gallons per flush or about 40 percent of a typical household's indoor water use.

If it is not possible to replace conventional toilets with ultra-low-flush toilets, residents can conserve water by placing a

Conserving and protecting our drinking water for present and future generations is truly using water wisely.

plastic container filled with water in the toilet tank. This displaces the water and reduces the amount of water used per flush.

After the toilet, the biggest household water user is the shower or bathtub. Long showers, of more than five minutes waste five to ten gallons of water

every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.



In addition, purchase an inexpensive water-saving shower head that you can install yourself. Field studies indicate such shower heads can save about ten gallons of water per person per day. This is a considerable water-savings, when compared to a typical bath which uses about thirty-six gallons.

We should not take this precious resource for granted. Conserving and protecting our drinking water for present and future generations is truly using water wisely.

Listed below are tips to help you conserve water in your home.

**Wash full loads in dish and clothes washers.** Dishwashers are typically accountable for ap-

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## Recycle Automobile Fluids

*If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!*

City of Orem Public Works

955 N 900 West

Orem, UT 84057

Phone: 801-229-7500

Fax: 801-229-7599

We're on the Web!

[www.orem.org](http://www.orem.org)

Oil and antifreeze are toxic and should not be poured into drains or dumped into storm drain sumps and catch basins or into gutters.

Most do-it-yourself type auto parts stores like Checker Auto and AutoZone will accept used oil. However they are not always equipped to handle antifreeze.

As a public service, Orem City Public Works accepts used oil and antifreeze from Orem City residents anytime during normal busi-

ness hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-F except holidays). Public Works can also accept transmission, brake and differential fluids. The Public Works complex is located at 955 North 900 West.

Please be sure that there is no water in the oil or antifreeze and do not mix the oil and antifreeze together. If you do have mixed oil and antifreeze, you can take it to Indian Oil. Call 785-8522 for details.

## Wise Water Use continued

proximately 3 percent and clothes washers 21 percent of household water use.

**Don't use the toilet as a garbage can to dispose of trash.** Five to seven gallons flow down the drain with every flush.

**Water your lawn only.** Avoid spraying the house or street. Use a broom to clean sidewalks.

**Set the lawnmower a notch higher during hot weather.**

Longer blades of grass help conserve moisture.



**Water lawns in the evening or early morning.** Cut down on the amount of evaporation by avoiding the use of sprinklers under full sunlight.

**Spend a few minutes observing the water meter in the home when all the faucets are turned off.** If the meter is still running, there is a leak somewhere in the

system. Leaks can account for a substantial and expensive waste of water.

**Think of ways to recycle, rather than pouring water down the drain.** For example, used water from a fish tank is beneficial for watering plants, since it contains nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Get involved about water issues in your community.** Attend a water board or planning commission meeting. Ask questions.

**Don't hose down sidewalks and driveways.** Sweep them instead.

**Reduce time in the shower and/or replace regular shower heads with low volume heads or flow restrictors.**

**Only fill the tub half full, or less, when taking a bath.**

**When shaving or brushing teeth, don't**



**leave the water running.** Instead turn it on only for rinsing, or fill a glass for rinsing.

**When washing dishes by hand don't leave the tap running.** Instead fill the sink.

**Store a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator to eliminate the practice of running tap water until it cools.**



**When washing cars, use a bucket.** Don't leave the hose running.

**Know how to turn off your sprinkler timer on stormy days.**

**Watch the ounces and the gallons will take care of themselves!** If you can join the effort by saving even a few ounces of water, you can help achieve an enormous effect and promote conservation on a national scale.