



Water Wise Weekly


August 10, 2009

Retrofitting Your Home for Water Conservation

Installing or replacing household water-using appliances and fixtures with low-flow, water conserving models is the best way to save water *and* money indoors.

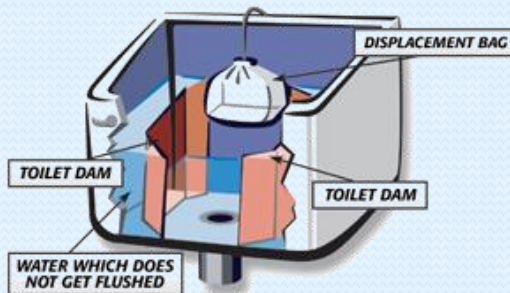
However, it is not always convenient. Here are some things you can do to retrofit your home appliances and fixtures for water conservation until you are ready to replace those large appliances and fixtures.

- **Washing Machines:** Post a sign to remind yourself to only do full loads. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Also, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons for the extra rinse.



Remember...
Full loads only!

- **Toilets:** Install a toilet tank dam or place a plastic, enclosed container filled with water, or other displacement device, in your toilet tank. This can save you thousands of gallons per year.



TIP: You can also install a dual flush system on existing toilets. This will convert your toilet to a high-efficiency model without the cost of an entire toilet. A quick search of the web for dual flush retrofit will result in many options and models.



Irrigation Users:

Adjust your system to apply at **85%** of your cycle time. Click [HERE](#) for a sample irrigation schedule.

Sprinkling Restrictions:

Remember, from May 1 - September 30, use of the city water supply system for lawn and garden sprinkling, irrigation, car washing, or other non-potable uses is limited to an odd/even schedule corresponding to your property address. If your address ends in an even number, you may sprinkle on even days of the month. If your address ends in an odd number, you may sprinkle on odd days of the month.

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Retrofitting Your Home for Water Conservation, continued

- **Faucets:** Fit your faucets with a flow-reducing faucet aerator. Faucets can use 2 to 7 gallons of water per minute. Faucet aerators can reduce water flow to 1.5-2.5 gallons per minute, and are inexpensive and easy to install. Some faucets are already manufactured with aerators. Water should look cloudy or milky (mixed with air) as it comes out of the faucet, if fixed with an aerator. Faucet aerator adapters are available at Merlin's ACE Hardware in Chanhassen and most other hardware stores.



Faucet aerator

- **Showerheads:** Fit your shower head with a flow restrictor. Flow restrictors reduce the amount of water that flows through it while increasing the pressure. Flow restrictors do not make for quite as nice a shower experience as low-flow shower heads, but they get the job done. Internal flow restrictors, which are metal or plastic disks with holes in them, are easy to install. Make sure you get one that is the same diameter as your shower's water pipe. Unscrew the old shower head. Use soap around the threads of the pipe in the wall to make it easier to replace the old shower head. Place the internal flow restrictor against the washer in the shower head neck and screw the shower head back on.

Resources:

Visit www.H2ouse.org for more ways you can conserve water!

Learning Opportunities & Events

Summer Exhibition
“Waterosity:
Go Green with a Splash”
June 6-October 4
Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum

This program explores the interdependence of people, plants, and water through several interactive displays and exhibits.

“The Cutting Edge” demonstrates the lawn grasses of the future, while providing information on water-wise living and landscaping as part of the “Waterosity” exhibit at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Visit www.arboretum.umn.edu for more information.



Monthly Drawing!

August Prize
4 Gate Passes To:



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Drawing on Aug 24