

## Tips to Conserve Water

1. Always turn taps off tightly so they do not leak
2. Fix any leaks immediately after discovery.
3. If you use a water pump and you run out of water you should have it inspected to fix any problems.
4. If the pump is running when all taps are off there may be a water leak. If this happens, fix the leak as soon as possible to avoid wasting water supply.
5. Install a dual flush toilet to use less water when you do not need it. Dual flush toilets use 0.8- gallons of water for liquid waste, and 1.6 gallons for solid waste, low-flow toilets use 1.6 gallons of water for each flush (Hayward 2015). Non-efficient toilets may use up to 3.5 gallons of water every flush (Water conservation tips).
6. If you do not have a low flow toilet, you can place a brick, a heavy bottle, float booster or something else into the toilet water tank to displace some of the water. Displacing the water will use less water when flushing, and require less water to fill the tank back up.
7. If your toilet is constantly running, or the handle is sticking, fix it or replace it as soon as possible to avoid wasting water.
8. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
9. Only run dishwashers with a full load.
10. When hand washing dishes always turn off the tap. Only fill the sink part way and rinse dishes with the spray attachment on the tap when available.
11. Always run clothes washing machines with a full load, or adjust water settings for smaller loads.
12. Use the shortest cycle, or a suds-saver feature on your clothes washer (17 water).
13. Buy energy efficient appliances, and use energy saving power settings.
14. Using front load washers conserve more water than top loading washers. An energy efficient front loading washer uses just over 20 gallons per load, while an energy efficient top loading washer uses 40 gallons of water per load (Water conservation tips).
15. Keep a water jug in the fridge so you do not have to run tap water until it gets cold.
16. Try to avoid using treated drinking water for uses other than drinking and cooking.
17. Try to thaw meat in the fridge or using the thaw setting on your microwave instead of using water.
18. When shaving or washing your face, fill the sink or basin with water to use instead of continuously running the tap.
19. If you brush your teeth first, the water will be hot by the time you go to wash your face instead of having to let the water run to hot.
20. Before throwing out a glass of water, see if there is any other use, like plants that need to be watered.

21. Collect rain from gutters in a rain barrel to save more treated water. Rain water can be used to water plants and do some outdoor cleaning.
22. Use a spray nozzle on your garden hose.
23. Plant only native plants. Non-native plants may spread throughout your garden and they absorb more water. Native plants are adapted to Newfoundland's weather conditions and contain less care and water to survive (Waterwise challenge).
24. Use mulch on gardens to reduce evaporation and retain soil moisture. Mulch also helps control weeds that can compete with plants for water.
25. Plant drought resistant shrubs, trees, and grasses to avoid needing to water as frequently.
26. Avoid over watering your lawn. Excess water drains into the soil rather than being used by the grass or plants.
27. To measure how much water you use when you are watering your lawn, place a tuna can outside and turn the sprinkler off when it gets full (Waterwise challenge).
28. Think about how much rain has fallen in the past couple of days before deciding to water your lawn.
29. Water plants and lawns early in the morning so more water can soak into the ground instead of immediately evaporating in the sun.
30. Do not leave sprinklers unattended you could waste 600 or more gallons of water in a few hours; use a sprinkler timer if necessary (Save water).
31. Use water efficient sprinklers.
32. Ensure water from sprinklers only hit plants, grass or shrubs. Avoid watering pavement, concrete, or water gutters.
33. Try to avoid watering plants and lawns on windy days to avoid increased evaporation.
34. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean dirt from driveways and walkways.
35. Do not constantly run the hose when washing your car. Use soap and a bucket, spot clean, or go to a car wash that requires approximately 7 times less water due to water recirculation (Waterwise challenge).
36. Do not wash your car on the street to avoid washing oil, dirt, and soap into storm gutters.
37. When changing oil or using other hazardous substances (paint, oil, windshield wash, etc.) collect all material in a container and bring it to a hazardous waste facility. DO NOT wash hazardous waste down a storm drain, the chemicals go directly into the closest water body polluting it.
38. Take shorter showers.
39. Use an energy efficient low flow showerhead. Using a low-flow shower head, you can save 15 gallons of water during a 10 minute shower (Water conservation tips).
40. Take less baths.

41. When taking a bath, plug the tub before starting the water. The cold water in the beginning will be cancelled out by the heat of the rest of the water.
42. Fill baths 1/3 of the way to conserve water. Bubble bath can be added to add extra volume into the bath.
43. Throw out facial tissues, cigarette butts, or other small items in the garbage rather than flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
44. Insulate your water pipes to get hot water faster so you do not have to waste as much water running the tap waiting.
45. Always keep swimming pools covered when not in use to minimize water evaporation. Minimizing water evaporation will also decrease the need to use more water re-filling the pool.
46. Water is needed in travel to deliver food, so shopping locally conserves more water.
47. A gallon of gasoline takes approximately 13 gallons of water to produce (Water conservation tips). Save water from gasoline use by carpooling or taking public transit.
48. Aerators, flow resisters, and washers can be installed on faucets to reduce water usage
49. Educate children, families, and friends on water conservation practices.
50. Encourage friends, families, schools, businesses and other municipalities to practice water conservation.

## References

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