

10 TIPS TO SAVE WATER, MONEY AND RIVERS

Outdoor Water Use

Did you know that many homes consume 2 - 6 times as much water in a summer month as in a winter month? Summer is also a time when our rivers and fish need the water.

1. **PLANTS IN THE YARD:** Water hungry yards are not river friendly!!! Instead of having a lawn or other water hungry landscaping, plant some of the beautiful Northwest native and drought tolerant plants that do not require summer watering once established.
2. **IF YOU MUST HAVE A LAWN:** Consider reducing the size of the lawn, or letting it go brown during the summer. If you choose to continue to water your lawn: make sure you study up on the actual amount of water needed (about $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch/week); do not over-water; do not water sidewalks or streets with ill-aimed sprinklers; and cut the lawn high (3 inches or so) to reduce the need to for water. Also, water in the evening to reduce evaporation of the water you apply.
3. **CAR WASHING:** Instead of washing your car with a hose, go to a commercial car wash that recycles water. In the Metro area, these include: Washman, Kaddy Carwash, ECO Car Wash and others. Using a car wash also eliminates the discharge to rivers of surfactants in soaps used in car washing. These surfactants can remove the slime that protects fish and their gills, in some cases killing the fish.
4. **DON'T USE THE HOSE TO CLEAN OFF DRIVEWAYS AND PATIOS:** Don't use precious water to clean off driveways or patios - especially in the dryer months! A simple broom is the much better choice.

Indoor Water Use

5. **THE SHOWER:** Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow showerhead. These low cost devices can save a lot of water - check with your water provider to see if it has a give-away program, or buy one at low cost at the hardware or home improvement store.
6. **HOUSEHOLD FAUCETS:** Make sure all of your faucets have low flow aerators. These are very inexpensive (about \$2), often available for free from your water provider, very easy to install, and they save significant amounts of water each time you turn on the faucet.
7. **WASHING MACHINE:** Only run the washing machine if you have a full machine. When replacing a washing machine or other water using appliance, consider a high-efficiency appliance. Front loading washing machines save a lot of water (and electricity) and many electric companies, the Energy Trust, and water providers offer rebates in addition to the tax credit offered by the State of Oregon.
8. Buy a low flow toilet. Ask your water provider if they have a rebate program. Or, add a plastic milk jug or plastic bottle filled with water to the tank of your existing toilet.

Food and Purchased Goods

9. **FOOD:** Most of the food we buy at the grocery store requires an enormous amount of water to produce. For example, a pound of beef can take 2500 gallons of water to produce. In the United States, up to 30% of food is wasted, which equals approximately 10 trillion gallons of water wasted (Stockholm International Water Institute). That is enough to cover the state of Connecticut 10 feet deep!
10. **PURCHASED GOODS:** Did you know that it takes 1,800 gallons of water to produce the cotton for one pair of jeans? Electronics and other products also require lots of water to produce. An average computer with a CRT monitor takes 396 gallons of water to produce (United Nations). Make water consumption one of the factors you consider before purchasing goods.