

WATER CONSERVATION

EVERY
DROP
COUNTS

With all the rainfall we receive here in Lions Bay, it can be easy to forget that our water supplies aren't limitless. Rainfall and mountain snowpacks combine to provide much of our surface water supply and both are being drastically impacted by climate change. With warmer annual temperatures and longer dry spells, combined with reduced snowpacks and earlier spring melting, there is an ever-increasing strain on our existing summer water supply when available water is least plentiful.

By using a little less and not wasting it, we can continue to meet demand, no matter what season!

top 3 reasons to conserve water

1. Ensures enough water during the summer months.
2. Maintains water reserves needed for firefighting.
3. Minimizes homeowner and system maintenance and the use of expensive consumables like chlorine to treat water.

Making water conservation an everyday priority is a vital step toward reducing water usage. Only you can take this important step. It's easy and requires minimal effort. It may be as simple as turning the tap off while brushing your teeth or reducing the length of your showers.

While most of the ideas in this brochure are not new, it is useful to be reminded of them because the best protection of our water resource comes from decisions you make.

You can literally reduce your water consumption by 10 - 40 % without making any major lifestyle changes! For example:

- ✓ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway, sidewalk, and deck - every 15 minutes of using a hose wastes 675 litres of water!

- ✓ Wash cars or boats with a bucket, sponge, and a hose with a self-shutting nozzle and save 30 - 70 litres of water per minute! Better still, find a professional carwash that recycles its wash water.
- ✓ An average garden hose delivers around 45 litres of water each minute. Install a shut-off nozzle on your hose so it runs only when you need it!
- ✓ Fix those leaks! Make sure none of your indoor or outdoor taps leak - don't put it off. You may not realize it but one dripping tap may waste over 20,000 litres of water per year!!!

Look for EnergyStar labelled products when shopping for new appliances and fixtures. These products have been independently tested and verified to save significantly more water when compared to conventional products.



Visit BC Hydro's website at www.bchydro.com to find more information on water and energy efficient appliance rebates, and check out their do-it-yourself tutorials for fixing leaks and installing low-flow showerheads and aerators.

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✓ Reducing your shower by 2 minutes each time can save 460 litres of water in a month!

✓ Fill the bathtub halfway or less and save up to 45 litres of water each time you take a bath!

✓ Install aerators on bathroom faucets and save 4.5 litres of water per day!

✓ Install a low-flow shower head and save up to 9.5 litres of water per minute each shower!

inside the home

✓ Turn off the water while you shave or brush your teeth and you can save up to 7.5 litres per minute!

✓ Fix a leaking toilet and save up to 300 litres of water a week!

check your toilet for leaks

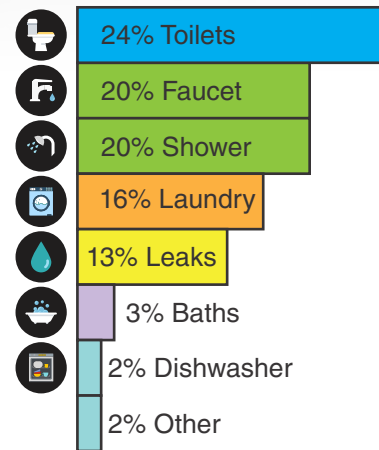
1. Put food colouring in your toilet tank and wait 10 minutes.
2. If it seeps into your toilet bowl, you have a leak.

Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools and a do-it-yourself manual or a YouTube video.

✓ Install a high-efficiency toilet and save up to 7 litres per flush!

✓ Even if your toilet is not leaking, it might be wasting water. Older standard toilets use 13 litres per flush; low flush toilets use 6 litres or less. Dual-flush toilets give you the option of a water-saving half flush.

More than 65% of residential water usage occurs in the bathroom with almost a quarter coming from flushing the toilet.



outside the home

our water consumption more than doubles in the summer

We water our lawns, gardens, and wash vehicles which increases water demand from all sources when it is least plentiful. As we experience longer, hotter, and drier summer conditions, it is even more important to conserve water in order to avoid more stringent water use restrictions. Consider this - Environment Canada studies show that as much as half of outdoor use is wasteful!

✓ A healthy lawn only needs 1 hour of water per week. This deep watering allows moisture to soak into the soil and builds strong, healthy root systems.

✓ After heavy rains you may not need to water your lawn for 10 to 14 days.

✓ Keep your grass at a height of 5 to 6 cm - taller grass allows deep roots to establish and helps your lawn retain water.

✓ Only water your lawn between 4 and 9 am - it's the law and it also ensures you're not wasting water through evaporation. This can save up to 100 litres each time you water!

✓ Install a rain sensor so irrigation systems won't run when it's raining.

✓ Adjust your lawn sprinkler or irrigation sprinkler heads so only your lawn is watered, not the house, sidewalk or street and save up to 57 litres each time you water!

✓ Collect rainwater in a barrel or other large container outfitted with a spigot and a cover to use for watering your garden.

✓ Vegetables love the warm water stored in rain barrels, and you'll save treated drinking water.

✓ Water the base of a plant instead of the leaves. This saves water and helps reduce disease.

✓ One inch of rain or water every 7-10 days is all your plants need.

✓ Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers and you can save 57 litres each time you water your garden!

✓ Plants protected by mulch require less watering. Mulch can preserve moisture by reducing soil temperature and slowing evaporation.

✓ Water vegetable gardens in the morning, near the roots, and by hand. Water deeply but less often, to encourage strong, deep roots.

✓ Use mulch around trees and plants to help reduce water loss through evaporation and to help control water-stealing weeds.

✓ Leave your soil alone! Hoeing and cultivating the soil in summer encourages evaporation and water loss; however, keep pulling those water-stealing weeds!