

Water Conservation

Here are a few tips that should be helpful to us all. And we can save in three ways: Money, Natural Resources, and Wastewater Treatment Capacity.

We can save money and valuable water resources by insuring that water is not wasted (inside and outside). The savings are both immediate and long-term. Our monthly water bill may be lower if we:

- Limit the time we leave water running;
- Do not let water run unattended (except to keep pipes from freezing in very cold weather);
- Rinse dirty dishes with a small stream of water;
- Wash pots and pans in stopped sink instead of streaming water;
- Put a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the water until it is cold;
- Wash full loads of cloths;
- Take showers instead of baths and limit time in the shower;
- Fill dishwasher before turning it on;
- Install water conserving faucets, shower heads, and toilets;
- Wash the car with a “trigger” hose nozzle that stops flowing when released; and
- Fix pipe leaks and leaky faucets and toilets which can waste thousands of gallons of water a month.

Dripping faucets are easy to identify, leaking toilets are just as easy if you know how. Check for leaky toilet valves by putting a few drops of ink or food coloring into the tank at the back of the toilet. If, after a few minutes, the color shows up in the toilet bowl you have a leak that should be fixed.

Here are a few more suggestions for every day use:

- Use Weber Basin (771-1677) or Pine View (621-6555) secondary water to water lawns and gardens;
- Keep lawns and gardens green, but do not over water and please shut off the system in rainy weather;
- Water lawns and gardens between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. as required by the water companies;
- Notify the water company if there are leaks in their pipe system. Fix broken pipes and sprinkler heads in your yard’s system; and
- Check your monthly water bill. Unusual usage indicates a leak (dripping faucet, leaking toilet, leaks in the house service) not a problem with the water meter—faulty meters read low, not high 99.99% of the time. Repair the leak as soon as possible to save money and water.

Most Washington Terrace households use about 4,000 gallons of drinking water a month. We don’t drink that much, but we do use it for cooking, showers/baths, washing cloths and dishes, and waste disposal. We’re fortunate to have secondary (untreated) water for

our lawns and gardens or the number of gallons of treated drinking water used would be much higher—and much more expensive.

The amount of water used is reflected on your water bill and, above 8,000 gallons, on your sewer-use bill. In the long-term, water conservation will benefit us immensely because additional water shares for the City will be much more expensive to treat and purchase, a natural resource will be conserved, and wastewater treatment capacity can be utilized more efficiently.

Water is precious. We can keep it running by using only what we need.