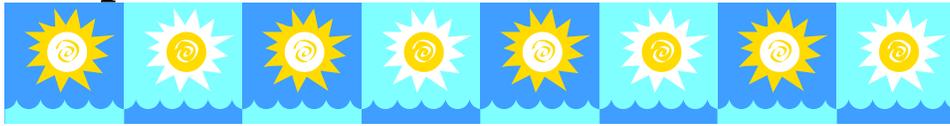


Tips to Conserve Water This Summer



According to the Texas State's Water Plan, our states existing water sources will meet only 75 percent of the projected water demand by the year 2060. That's why it's critical to use water resources more efficiently to prevent shortages. Although water use varies with the time of day and season of the year, peak consumption is in the spring and summer and when families get home in the late afternoon. With the hot Texas summer approaching, here are some important water conservation tips to keep in mind.

- If the shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace it with a water efficient shower head.
- Recycle an old toilet with a more efficient one and save as much as five gallons per flush. Pay attention to dripping sounds and fix that leaky toilet.
- Don't let the water run continually when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take showers instead of baths. More efficient shower heads use less water.
- When washing dishes, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Install faucet aerators to cut sink water consumption.
- Instead of running water from the tap until its cool, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.
- Rinse vegetables in a pan of cold water.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.
- Don't over-water plants. Collect rainwater or recycle water from fish tanks to water plants. Check sprinklers frequently and adjust so only the lawn is watered.
- Avoid watering the lawn during any form of precipitation.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps.
- Plant in spring or fall when watering requirements are lower.
- Check the water meter and monthly bills to track water usage.
- Watering is prohibited during the hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1 – Oct. 31.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways or sidewalks.