

4. Soak pots and pans overnight if they are very dirty.
5. Cut down on clean-up by serving single dish meals.
6. Wash vegetables in a bowl rather than allowing water to run from faucet.
7. Do not let faucets run for washing or rinsing. Fill a container with water for this purpose or use the stopper in the drain.
8. Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator rather than letting the water run in the sink to get a cool drink.
9. Use only the minimum water to cook foods; flavor and food value may be wasted along with the water.

I. Backyard Pools

1. Do not install pool next to an onsite sewage disposal system so as to prevent water that is splashed out from soaking into the sewage system.

J. Dishwasher

1. Pre-clean dishes with paper napkins.
2. Wash only full loads.
3. Soak pots and pans overnight if necessary.
4. Try to use the least amount of water as possible by using cycle adjustments on your dish machine.

K. Drinking Water

1. Do not run water waiting for cold water without collecting water for other use.
2. Make only the amount of drink, such as tea or coffee, that you are going to use.
3. Use ice cubes to cool water.

4. Use plastic ice trays which permit the cubes to be loosened rather than running water over the tray.

L. Garbage Grinder

1. Try starting a compost pile.
2. Use your garbage container more often.

M. Other

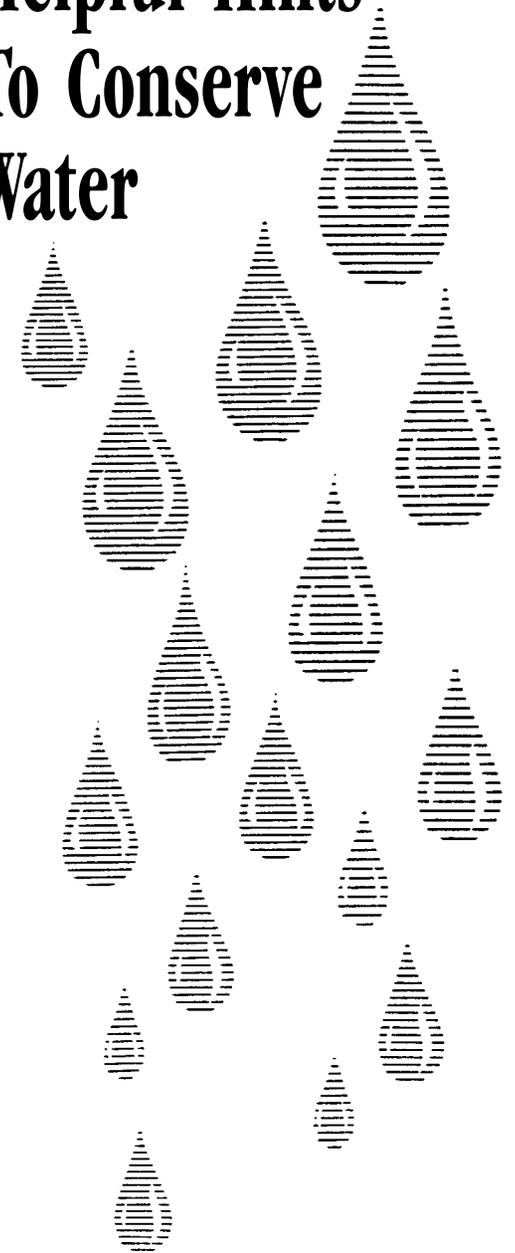
The following items, if purchased are inexpensive, and their use will not change your life style.

1. Water saving shower head – *purchase one that flows under 3 gallons per minute.*
2. Plastic toilet inserts (called dams).
3. Faucet aerators.
4. Flow control inserts.
5. Spray taps.
6. Combined spray tap-aerators.
7. Low water use toilets. They are only 3¼ gallons per flush and some toilets can be purchased that use only one (1) gallon per flush.

**NOT ONLY DOES THE
CONSERVING OF WATER HELP
YOUR ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM,
BUT IT ALSO SAVES ENERGY
AND MONEY.**

For more information please contact the
Monroe County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
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Helpful Hints To Conserve Water



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For persons whose home is serviced by an onsite sewage disposal system, water leaving the home as wastewater flows to the septic tank and ultimately to the field bed. Once the effluent enters the field bed it must be absorbed by the soil in order for the system to function properly. Soil type in which the field bed has been constructed determines the rate at which the water is absorbed. Clay soils or soils with a high water table reduce the rate at which the wastewater is absorbed. By limiting the amount of water that is discharged into the sewage system, one may overcome two (2) factors which cause premature failure of your system. Below are some helpful hints that will reduce the amount of wastewater from your home. Reducing water use also saves energy and conserves a precious natural resource.

A. Toilet

A leaking toilet tank can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.

1. When installing a new toilet, select one that uses a small amount of water. Several models flush with less than two (2) gallons of water.
2. Flush only feces, urine, and toilet paper. Use waste containers for tissue, trash, hair, paper towels, disposable diapers, etc.
3. Be sure not to flush more often than necessary.
4. Check toilet for leaks by:
 - a. Listening for the sound of running water.
 - b. Add a few drops of food coloring in water tank; if coloring appears in toilet without flushing there is a leak.

5. Add plastic bottles filled with water and weighted with pebbles to displace water in tank.
 - a. Do not obstruct the float.
 - b. Do not use objects that could flake off or would break tank if dropped, such as a brick.
 - c. Plastic tank dams may be purchased from hardware store.

B. Washing Machine

1. Use load selector for large or small loads.
2. If you do not have a load selector, wash only full loads.
3. When purchasing a new machine, select one that uses the least amount of water per pound of clothes.
4. When purchasing a new machine, select one with a suds saver.

C. Bathroom Sink

1. Clean razor and toothbrush with small bursts of water.
 - a. For teeth use a cup to rinse, brush or turn off the water while brushing your teeth; this can save a family 5 to 10 gallons per day.
 - b. Rinse hand razors in the sink rather than under running water.
2. Do not let faucets run for washing or rinsing. Fill a container with water for this purpose or use the stopper in the drain.
3. Use a brush, wash cloth, or your hand to dislodge particles of dirt when washing anything rather than relying on the force of the water to do the job.
4. When shampooing, turn off the water when lathering the hair.

D. Bathtub

1. A full tub holds fifty (50) gallons of water;

you can take a bath adequately with $\frac{1}{4}$ as much water. Do not fill tub so it overflows into overflow pipe when you enter the tub.

2. Clean tub while you are in it.
3. Stopper the tub before turning on water. Cold water may be warmed up later with hot water.

E. Faucets

A leaky faucet wastes more water than most people realize. A leak of 60 drops per minute can waste 113 gallons per month; a steady drop will waste 237 gallons per month.

1. Check faucets for leaks at least twice a year.
2. Make sure faucets are turned off.

F. Showers

1. Turn off water while soaping up.
2. Limit your shower to five minutes or less.
3. Wash with a light spray.
4. Purchase a "water saver" shower head.

G. Household Cleaning

1. Recycled water is great for heavy cleaning following by a clean rinse.
2. Use the least amount of soap or cleaning agent as possible.

H. Kitchen Sink

1. If you have a sprayer, use it with short bursts only.
2. Scrape dishes with paper napkins from table.
3. Use aerator on faucet or spray tap faucets.