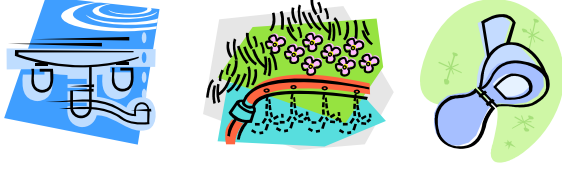


# DRINKING WATER



# USE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED



## How do you use water?

Using the questions below, make a list of the ways you use water each day. Can you identify ways to reduce your water use?

### Indoor water use

- How many times do you flush your toilet each day?

- Do any of your toilets leak?

- Do any of your sink faucets leak?

- How many times each day do you turn on sink faucets? How long do you run the water?

- How long are your showers?

- How many times each week do you run your clothes washer?

- How many times each week do you run your dishwasher?

### Outdoor water use

- How often do you water your lawn and gardens?

- If you have a pool, do you use a cover to slow evaporation?

- Do you let the water run while you wash your car?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Water: Use it wisely

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>

- H<sub>2</sub>OUSE

<http://www.h2ouse.net/>

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: WaterSense

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>

- Metropolitan Council

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/>

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>



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# USE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED: Conserve Water

## USE LESS INDOORS

- ✓ **Fix leaks**



**Did you know?** A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. **Does your toilet leak?** Add several drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. If it's leaking, the coloring will appear in the toilet without flushing.

- ✓ **Do not use the toilet as a waste basket**
- ✓ **Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth and shaving**
- ✓ **Keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the faucet**

**Did you know?** By keeping a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet you can save 200-300 gallons of water per month.

- ✓ **Run only full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer**



## USE LESS OUTDOORS

- ✓ **Know your lawn's and gardens' watering needs**



**Try this!** Group plants with similar watering needs to prevent over or under watering plants.

- ✓ **Set your mower blades one notch higher**

**Did you know?** Longer grass means less evaporation (saving 500 – 1500 gallons of water per month).

- ✓ **Fill your gardens with native trees and plants**



**Did you know?** Using drought native trees and plants in your gardens can save between 750 and 1500 gallons of water per month.

- ✓ **Use a bucket of water to wash the car and finish with a quick rinse**

**Did you know?** Washing a car for 20 minutes can use up to 100 gallons of water if you let the water run the entire time.

