

## Water Conservation Tips

Being in the midst of our third year of drought and having received only one third the normal precipitation amount this winter, we're coming in to the worst water season we have experienced for some time. Using water wisely, then, will help us all get through this tough summer. Hillview Water Company has issued voluntary water conservation alerts for our Coarsegold, Raymond, and Goldside customers and a mandatory conservation plan for our Oakhurst-Sierra Lakes customers. To aid you in your efforts to conserve water, here are some suggestions to help you be water-wise:

1. Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix that leaky faucet and you'll save almost 6,000 gallons a year!
2. Add food coloring in each toilet tank. Without flushing, check in 15 minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It's not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. And that's more than 30,000 gallons a year!
3. Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full. Five minutes for showering and about five inches in the tub is plenty. You might also try showering with less than full pressure which can save half, or more, of your normal water use.
4. Try to use automatic dish and clothes washing machines with full loads only. Even when washing machines feature short cycles, you're being more efficient with your water when you run your machines with a full load only.
5. Water your lawn and garden with good sense. Do it early or late, not in midday heat. Avoid watering on windy days. See that water goes where it should, not on sidewalks or driveways. A single lawn sprinkler spraying five gallons per minute uses 50% more water in just one hour than ten toilet flushes, two five-minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes combined! Our guidelines request that you restrict outside watering to no more than twice per week, watering only before dawn or after dusk. And remember that after 10-15 minutes of running the sprinkler, your lawn has absorbed all the water it can hold – if you water it longer, the water is simply wasted runoff.
6. Install water-saving devices. If you don't already have water-efficient fixtures, you can cut your water use with aerators (to mix air with water) and displacement devices (such as a toilet dam or weighted plastic jug full of water to reduce the amount of water used in older toilets). (Do not use a brick as it may break apart and cause problems!) Install a low-flow shower head, flow restrictor, or cut-off valve (which lets you shut off water at the shower head while soaping up and shampooing without changing the faucet setting).
7. Plug the drain and use the water in the sink when you wash or shave your face. Don't run water when you brush your teeth.
8. When washing the car, rinse once, wash from a bucket of soapy water, and rinse again quickly. Always use a shutoff nozzle on your hose to limit water waste.

Change wasteful habits!  
Use water-saving devices!  
Repair leaks promptly!

If everyone saves a little, we can all save a lot!