

Water Use in Your Home

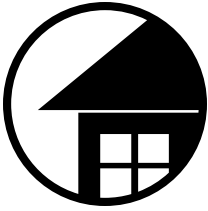
*What You Need to Know
to Use Less and Spend Less*



The #1 Water Saving Device Is *you!*

contents

Being Water Wise.....	1
Home Water Audit	2
The Bathroom	
Toilets	4-5
Faucets	6
Baths vs. Showers.....	7
The Kitchen	
Sinks	8
Dishwashers.....	9
Food Preparation.....	10
The Laundry Room	
Washing Machines.....	11
Water Treatment	12
Water Heating	
Technologies	13-14
Outdoor Water Conservation	
Technologies	15
Building Your Own Rain Barrel.....	16-17
Lawn Watering.....	18
Lawn Maintenance	19
Xeriscaping Your Yard.....	20-21
Online Resources	22
Top 10 Conservation Efforts You Can Take Right Now ...	23



being water wise

As a land of a thousand lakes, Saskatchewan appears to have infinite water resources to sustain our lives and livelihoods, while offering plentiful opportunity for recreational, commercial and industrial use. In reality, we must acknowledge that all water is a finite resource that, if we are not more careful about how and when we use it, will become scarcer and scarcer for present and future generations.

Reducing water loss, waste or use in and around your home requires a simple short-term investment in time and money, that will result in immediate and long-term savings for you. Water conservation does not mean you have to give up convenience or comfort. Being water wise means reducing your use when possible; retrofitting existing taps, toilets and appliances; and investing in water.

HOW MUCH WATER DO WE USE?

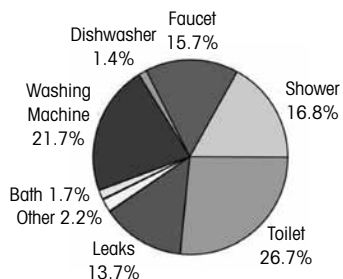
The average Canadian uses 343 litres per person each day residentially. In 2003, average per person daily residential use in Saskatchewan was 293 litres. When including all community uses (commercial, recreational and industrial systems found within a municipality), the average use for 2003 was 375 litres per person each day.

The Organization For Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ranks Canada 28 out of 29 OECD countries in terms of residential water consumption. Only the United States uses more water per capita than Canada.

WHERE DOES IT GO?

- Residential water use accounts for 21 per cent of water use in Saskatchewan.
- Residential water use increases by 50 per cent in the summer months.
- 50 per cent of the water used outdoors evaporates before serving any purpose.

Canadian Average Indoor Water Use





home water audit

Without changing a single behaviour, you can make your home more water efficient by finding and fixing household leaks. Here is an easy way to find out if your home has a leak:

- Record the reading on your water meter at night before you go to sleep.
- Check it again first thing in the morning.
- If it has shown water use when no one in the family has used any water, you have a leak!

Each section of the booklet suggests ways to find leaks in each room in your home. Go explore!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

When using this booklet you will find suggestions of how to reduce your use, and retrofit or replace water using devices in every area of the home.

Reduce Your Use

These sections recommend numerous “FREE” ways you can adjust your behaviours to save water and money. The conservation ideas will help you and your family to be conscious of the water you are using and help you to use less.

Retrofit

These sections recommend ways of modifying existing taps, toilets and appliances to be more efficient water users. Some suggestions are without cost, while others require a small investment.

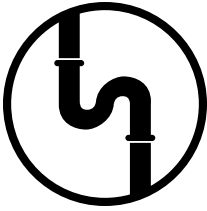
Replace

These sections recommend water and energy efficient options if you are replacing water-using devices within your home. Although these recommendations will require a financial investment, they will have the largest and most immediate impact on water savings.

HOW DO I KNOW I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Use the grid on the facing page to record the number of actions taken and monthly water, power and natural gas bills. Compare yearly values to see the results of your efforts. Keep in mind that the more actions you take, the larger the financial savings will be.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2009 Bills												
# of Actions												
Water												
Power												
Natural Gas												
2010 Bills												
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Water												
Power												
Natural Gas												
2011 Bills												
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Water												
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Natural Gas												



the bathroom

TOILETS

Water Waste Checks

Listen. Is your toilet running while not in use?

Look. Use food colouring to dye the water in the toilet's holding tank. If after 20 minutes the dye enters the bowl, you have a leak.

The Fix: Two Common Problems

The flapper (flush valve). Drain tank and wipe down tank and flush valve. This should remove any film, dirt or rust and will allow a proper seal. If this does not fix the problem you may need a new flush valve.

Water leaking into overflow tube.

Tighten the screw on the fill valve. Bend the float ball arm down. Pinch silver clip and slide it down the fill valve rod.

If these efforts do not fix the problem you may need a new fill valve.

Reduce Your Use

Do not use the toilet as a waste-basket.

Place two inches of rocks or sand inside a one litre pop bottle.

- Fill the remaining space with water.
- Place the bottle inside the toilet tank.
- Test the flush to ensure the toilet can still do the job.
- Adjust the water level in the bottle to ensure a proper flush.

Retrofit

Install an early closing toilet flapper.

These can be purchased at a local

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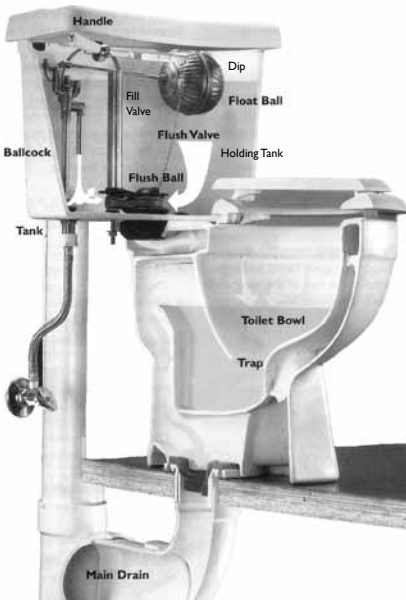
In Saskatchewan, toilet flushing accounts for approximately one quarter of indoor water use. Reducing this consumption area will result in major water savings. It also decreases your environmental impact as less water needs to be treated and transported to you.

Less Water Use = Less Energy Consumption = Less CO₂

hardware store. Be sure to purchase the right flush valve for your toilet size.

Install an adjustable toilet tank ballcock. These can be purchased at a local hardware store. They allow you to adjust the amount of water used for flushing.

Install a toilet dam. A toilet dam makes your tank smaller, preventing water from filling the holding tank completely. These are available through online supply stores.



Replace

If you are in the process of home renovating here are some options to keep in mind.

Install a new low flush toilet. New models use only six litres of water compared to their 1960s counterparts which used 20 litres.

Install a dual flush toilet. These models allow you to adjust the water level based on the contents being flushed. They feature a short flush that uses three litres of water and a larger flush that uses six litres.

Composting toilets are also an option. Although they use little to no water, composting toilets require a holding tank and are costly to purchase and install compared to the low flush and dual flush models.

Did You Know?

A leaking toilet may lose as much as **330 litres** of water each day.

That amount equals the total volume used by the average Canadian.

Remember to look at the size of your toilet base before you head to the hardware store, if you are replacing a toilet and not the flooring beneath it.



FAUCETS

Water Waste Checks

Look. Close bathroom sink taps completely and check to see if you have any leaks. Placing a piece of newsprint under the tap will allow you to watch for slower leaks without having to stand in the bathroom. Come back in an hour and see if the paper is wet.

The Fix

Worn washers are usually the culprit if the leak is coming from the spout. They can be replaced for pennies at any hardware store.

Leaking along the handle usually requires replacement of the o-ring.

Reduce Your Use

Ensure taps are completely turned off after use.

Do not run the water while washing your hands or brushing your teeth.

Plug the sink while shaving.

Leave a container next to the sink to collect the cold water while waiting for the hot water. Use this water for rinsing your teeth or watering plants.

Retrofit

Insulate your pipes. This will decrease the wait time for hot water to run from your faucets.



Replace

Install a low flow faucet aerator or swivel sprayer. They are inexpensive, easy to install and available at any hardware store. Low flow faucet aerators can decrease your faucet's water use by half.

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Remember that wasted HOT water is a double hit to the environment as well as your pocket book. Not only are you paying for the water, you are paying for the energy to heat it.



BATHS v s . SHOWERS

Water Waste Checks

Look. Close bath tub/shower taps completely and check to see if you have any leaks.

The Fix

See Faucets – Page 6.

Reduce Your Use

Ensure taps are completely turned off after use.

Place a bucket near the tub to catch discarded cool water. Use this water to water plant or feed pets.

Plug the drain in the tub the next time you take a shower. If you fill up the tub more than one quarter, it is time to get more efficient in the shower.

Place a shower radio in the bathroom.

Try to complete a shower in three songs or less, or approximately 7.5 minutes maximum.

When showering follow this routine: get wet, turn off the water, soap and scrub, then turn on the water on to rinse.

Replace

Install a low flow showerhead.

Conventional showerheads used 15-19L/minute of water, while newer models use 7-9L/minute. Newer models are available at most all-purpose and hardware stores, are easy to install and quite affordable.

Did You Know?

- A tap that drips a mere six drops per minute will lose 1200L of water per year.
- That is seven bath tubs down the drain.
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will soon be launching an online Water Use Calculator to help educate the public on their water use habits. Visit the Authority's website for more information at www.swa.ca/waterconservation.



the kitchen

SINKS

Water Waste Checks

Look. Close taps completely and check to see if you have any leaks.

When cleaning the kitchen, place a small amount of water in the sink for wiping counters, cupboards and the stove instead of rinsing out washcloths under the running tap.

The Fix

See Faucets – Page 6.

Retrofit

Insulate your pipes. This will decrease the wait time for hot water to run from your faucets.

Reduce Your Use

Plug the sink when washing and rinsing dishes.

Replace

Place a wash bucket in the sink to decrease the volume of water required to wash dishes.

Install a low flow faucet aerator or swivel sprayer. They are inexpensive, easy to install and available at any hardware store. Low flow faucet aerators can decrease your faucet water use by half.

Pass leftover dish water through a strainer and collect in a spray bottle. Use the spray on indoor and outdoor plants to limit spider mites, aphids and white flies.

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A garbage disposal unit requires 30 seconds of water running time per use.

If the disposal unit is used once after every meal, it will “eat up” 14 litres of water per day. That is 5,110 litres* down the drain each year! That’s enough water to fill a “kiddie pool” nine times!

Composting organic wastes is a much better option.

*Figures assume use of a low-flow aerator.



DISH WASHERS

Water Waste Checks

Look. Check to see if you have any minor leaks along the hose that attaches the dishwasher to the water source.

The Fix

Worn washers, copper pipes and hose clamps are usually the culprits. These items can be easily replaced at any hardware store.

Reduce Your Use

Wash full loads only.

Scrape off food with a utensil or napkin, not water.

Avoid pre-rinsing dishes except in cases of sticky or burned on food.

Load the dishwasher so water can reach all surfaces of the items being washed; incorrect loading increases the need to rewash dishes.

Use the shortest cycle for lightly soiled loads. Using a setting that uses more water will not clean the dishes any better and will waste water.

Avoid using the heat-dry, rinse-hold and pre-rinse features. Instead, use your dishwasher's air-dry option.

Replace

Replace older inefficient models (manufactured prior to 1994) with newer "ENERGY STAR" rated models. The washers save water and energy.

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PROPER use of an ENERGY STAR dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Combined with an eco-friendly detergent, it can be a great environment and time saver.



FOOD PREPARATION

Reduce Your Use

Capture water used to wash produce and use it to water household plants.

Thaw foods by placing them in the refrigerator instead of placing them under running water.

Chill water in a container in the refrigerator to avoid running water down the drain while waiting for it to cool.

Boil water in an enclosed kettle to prevent water loss through evaporation.

Use a covered container to avoid evaporation of water from foods baked in the oven.

Select the appropriate sized pots and pans when cooking.

Leftover water from boiling vegetables can be saved and used in a variety of ways. The vegetable water can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 48 hours. If not used within 48 hours it can be kept frozen. Water can be used as part of a soup stock, for boiling and steaming raw or frozen vegetables and stews, and as water bases in gravy mix.

Steam your vegetables instead of boiling. Not only do you conserve water, you keep more of the nutrients in the vegetables.

Prevent water evaporation by using lids and cooking food over low heat.

Did You Know?

You can cut the amount of water recommended on the pasta package in half by adding one tablespoon of olive oil and stirring the pasta when first placed in the pot.



the laundry room

W A S H I N G M A C H I N E S

Water Waste Checks

Look. Check to see if you have any minor leaks along the hose that attaches the washing machine to the water source.

Look. Close all faucets completely and check to see if you have any leaks.

The Fix

You may need a new hose. Washing machine hoses are easily replaced and can be found at any hardware store.

See Faucets – Page 6.

Reduce Your Use

Wash full loads only if your washing machine does not allow you to adjust water levels.

Always match the water level to the load, if adjustable.

Pre-treat stains to avoid having to wash clothing twice.

Use the perma-press cycle on your machine only when necessary. It uses 33 per cent more water than the regular settings.

Only use hot water for heavily soiled items.

Only wash dirty items. Towels can be used more than once. Clothing worn for brief periods of time can be worn again.

Retrofit

Insulate your pipes. This will decrease the wait time for hot water to run from your faucets. The insulation is available at any hardware store.

Replace

When buying a new washing machine, consider purchasing a front-loading model. Front-loading washing machines use about 40 per cent less water per load and 50 per cent less energy than top-loading washing machines. Front-loading machines also use less detergent, decreasing the waste water treatment required.

Did You Know?

It takes approximately five years for a front loading washing machine to pay for itself, but its positive effects on the environment kick in immediately!



HOME WATER TREATMENT

Reduce Your Use

Water Treatment

When shopping for an in-home water treatment system, you will likely find the systems categorized as point-of-entry or point-of-use treatment.

Point-of-entry water treatment systems treat all of the water being used in the home. These systems include: sedimentation filters, iron control treatment, reverse osmosis, water softeners and chlorination systems.

Point-of-use water treatment systems treat part of the water in the home water distribution system, usually at one faucet. The water is typically only used for drinking and cooking. These systems primarily use carbon filtration. Point of use water filters waste no water and are an excellent choice if treated water does not meet taste expectations. These filters attach to a faucet or are placed in a container in the refrigerator. They do not consume water in the filtration process.

Water Softeners

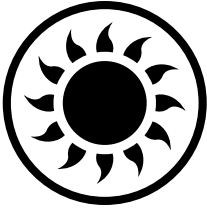
In regions where water is too hard to mix with detergents and you must use a softener, consider a more efficient demand initiated regeneration (DIR) water softener. The new DIR water softener will help you save money on water and salt. On demand water softeners use less water than the traditional water softeners by responding to actual water use and water hardness rather than timed schedule.

Water Filtration Systems

Reverse osmosis systems only return approximately 20 per cent of the water they use. The systems are absolutely unnecessary and wasteful if used to re-treat municipally treated water. If you do have to treat your own water, remember that reverse osmosis systems vary greatly in their water efficiencies.

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Before installing expensive treatment systems that waste water, salt, and money, have your water tested. Many people re-treat municipally treated water unnecessarily. If taste is the concern use one of the many excellent point-of-use filtration treatment options.



water heating

TECHNOLOGIES

Reduce Your Use

Water heating is the second largest energy user in your home, next to space heating. It accounts for 20 per cent of your energy bills. By using less in your laundry room, bathroom, and kitchen, you not only save water but energy too.

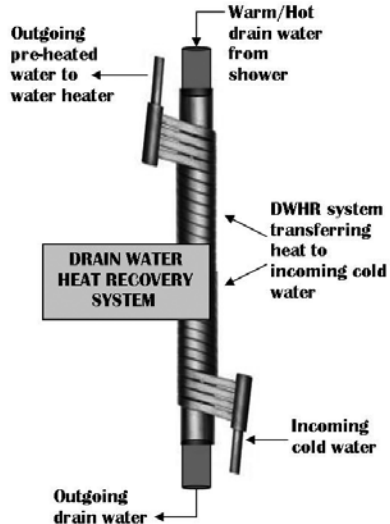
Retrofit

Insulate hot water pipes, especially through areas such as basements and crawlspaces. This can save you about two per cent on your heating bill and reduce pipe-sweating in the summer.

Install a **Drain Water Heat Recovery System (DWHR)** and save up to 40 per cent on your water heating costs. When warm water goes down the drain, it carries away valuable energy with it. With this technology, drain water never mixes with the fresh water – it simply transfers the heat from the drain water to preheat the incoming water so your water heater has less work to do.

Replace

When buying a new water heater, it makes sense to choose the water heater that costs the least to operate – an efficient natural gas water heater. Look for a water heater with a high energy factor (EF), the higher the better.



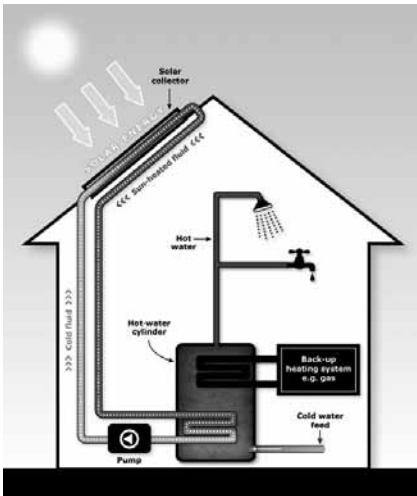
You may also want to consider some of the following options and tips.

Storage Tank Water Heaters

These systems heat and store water in a tank so that hot water is available to the home at any time. As hot water is drawn from the top of the tank, cold water enters the bottom and is heated. An energy-efficient model will typically have extra tank insulation which reduces heat loss through the tank walls, a better heat exchanger to transfer more heat to the water, and factory installed heat traps to prevent unwanted flow of hot water out of the tank.

Instantaneous Water Heaters

Also known as on-demand or tankless water heaters, these systems only heat the amount of water that is needed – avoiding heat loss through tank walls and water pipes. The systems can be vented through the side of the home eliminating the need for a chimney and they are compact which can save floor space. Larger models are available to accommodate households with simultaneous water heating needs. Condensing instantaneous units are also available with an energy factor rating as high as 98 per cent.

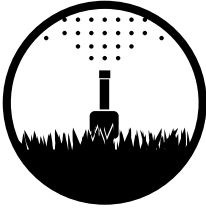


Solar Hot Water Heating

Solar water heating uses the sun's energy to heat the water. On average, a residential solar water heating system can supply up to 50 per cent of the energy needed to heat water. The easy-to-install, low-maintenance systems include one or more solar collectors, which are usually mounted on the roof of the house. Since energy from the sun is free, solar water heating can significantly reduce a household's water heating costs.

Did You Know?

A natural gas water heater heats water three times as fast and at a lower cost than an electric water heater.



outdoor water conservation

TECHNOLOGIES

Reduce Your Use

Saskatchewan residents **DOUBLE** their water use during the summer months. The major concern with outdoor water use is that the water used **RARELY** makes it back to the source!

We use water to wash cars, clean decks, wash driveways, fill swimming pools, and water lawns and gardens.

By changing our attitudes, actions and using some simple technologies, we can dramatically reduce our water consumption during the summer.

Timers

Over-watering of lawns is a major source of water waste each year. Over-watering weakens a plant's root system and drains away nutrients from the soil.

An average lawn requires 2.5 cm of water per week (less if it has rained). To know when to water, look at your lawn. If it becomes slightly discoloured, it is time to water.

To determine how long to water, place a 2.5 cm tall container on the lawn. Turn on the sprinklers and keep track of the amount of time it takes to fill the container. This is the amount of time you should water your lawn. TIP: a small salmon or tuna can works great!

Install and set a timer to prevent accidental over watering.

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a conservation technology that collects and stores rain for future lawn and garden watering.

Rain barrels can also prevent drainage problems around your home's foundation by collecting rooftop runoff from your home's downspouts.

Rain barrels can be purchased from large home improvement stores, garden centres or online. You can also build your own by following the instructions on the following pages.

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Half the water that we use outdoors is lost through evaporation! That water is lost from our lakes, rivers and aquifers. This increases demand for water and threatens our watersheds as well as our pocketbooks.



BUILDING A RAIN BARREL

You will need the following materials:

- One 55-gallon drum with mesh screen or tight fitting lid*
- 3½ ft vinyl hose (¾" OD x 5/8" ID)**
- One 4" diameter atrium grate
- One ½" PVC male adapter (will be attached to bottom of rain barrel)
- One 3" vinyl gutter elbow
- Waterproof sealant (i.e., plumbers goop, silicone sealant, or pvc cement)
- One ¾" x ½" PVC male adapter (will be attached to end of hose and readily adapted to fit standard garden hose)
- Teflon tape



You will need the following tools:

- Drill with ½" bit (or use hole saw to cut ½" hole)
- Router, jig saw, or coping saw
- Measuring tape

Attaching adapter to bottom of barrel:

1. Using a measuring tape, measure about 1 inch above the bottom of the barrel where the curvature along the bottom rim ends and the barrel side begins to rise toward the top. Using a ½" bit (or hole saw), drill a hole through the barrel.
2. Screw the ½" PVC male adapter into this newly drilled hole. The hard PVC threads cut matching grooves into the soft plastic of the barrel.
3. Unscrew the ½" PVC male adapter from the hole. Wrap threads with Teflon tape. Coat the threads of the coupler with waterproof sealant. Screw the coated adapter back into the hole and let it sit and dry for 24 hours.
4. Attach 3½ ft vinyl hose to the PVC male adapter.



Fitting atrium grate to the top of the barrel (filters out large debris):

5. Using the atrium grate as a template for size, mark a circle at the center of the top of the drum (Locating the rainwater inlet in the center of the barrel allows the barrel to be pivoted without changing the position of the down spout).
6. Drill a 1/2" hole in the inside of the marked circle. Use a router, jig or coping saw to further cut within the marked circle until the hole is large enough to accommodate the atrium grate (the atrium grate is used to filter out large debris). Make sure not to make the hole too big—you want the flange of the atrium grate to fit securely on the top of the barrel without falling in. Placing a scrap piece of fine mesh window screen inside or outside of the grate will provide filtering of finer debris and mosquito control.



Cutting out a notch at top of barrel to hold adapter and hose:

7. Using a 1/2" bit or saw, cut out a notch at the top of the barrel rim (aligned so that it is above the outlet at the bottom of barrel). The notch should be large enough so that the coupler will firmly snap into place.



Elevating the rain barrel:

8. The rain barrel is designed to take advantage of gravity. Water will flow from the vinyl hose when the hose is below the barrel. Therefore, place the barrel on cinder blocks or a sturdy wooden crate at least 15" from the ground.

Modifying the down spout to divert water to barrel:

9. Modify the down spout with a gutter elbow to divert water into the barrel.



* Barrels should be covered with a mesh screen or tight fitting lid in order to control mosquitos and other insects that breed in standing water.

** OD-Outside Diameter, ID-Inside Diameter



LAWN WATERING

Water Waste Checks

Look. Check to see if your watering system sprays beyond the lawn area. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Look. Check the temperature. Watering should only be done if the temperature is between 10°C to 20°C. Watering when it is too cold leaves your lawn susceptible to disease. Watering when it is too hot causes the water to evaporate.

Look. Check for leaks along watering hoses and at the connection at the tap.

Reduce Your Use

Water in the morning, between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. when temperatures are lower and winds are calmer.

Monitor your lawn when watering to ensure water does not pool on the lawn or run over the sides.

Use mulch to reduce evaporation and weeds.

Aerate your lawn periodically.

Replace

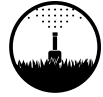
Replace broken hoses immediately.

Use trickle irrigation hoses for smaller areas, trees, flower beds and gardens.

Replace damaged outdoor taps. Catch leaking water in a bucket until the part is replaced. New connectors can be purchased at most local hardware stores.

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AVOID THE HOSE! Instead of having the kids run through a sprinkler on a hot day, fill a kiddie pool or use handheld water toys instead. For outdoor cleaning, use a broom on the deck or driveway and wash the car and home windows using a bucket and a sponge.



LAWN MAINTENANCE

Water Waste Checks

Measure. Your lawn should never be cut shorter than six cm.

Look. Check your lawn mower blades to ensure they are sharp.

Reduce Your Use

Mowing

Set lawn mower to cut grass no shorter than six to eight cm in height.

During long periods of hot weather allow grass to reach eight to ten cm in height.

Sharpen your lawn mower blades. Dull lawn mower blades tear grass instead of cutting. This leaves the lawn at risk of heat stress and thus requires more water.

Leave clippings on the lawn. They trap moisture and fertilize the lawn.

Avoid the use of herbicides and insecticides. They prevent the natural breakdown of the lawn clippings.

Replace dead sections of lawn by placing a new section of sod over the dead area. Over-watering a dead area of lawn will not bring it back to life. It just simply wastes water and can begin to kill surrounding lawns.

Do not try to revive dead patches of grass during a drought. Brown grass is not dead, it is dormant and will return to its lush green once temperatures drop.

Fertilizing

Fertilize lawns once a year in either spring or fall.

Use natural fertilizers, which are organic sources of nitrogen as they dissolve slowly. Sources of natural fertilizer include: cow manure, bone meal, mushroom compost and mixed organic fertilizer.

Fertilize your lawn right before a rain is forecast. This saves you from having to water and ensures good absorption of the fertilizer by the soil.



XERISCAPING YOUR YARD

Xeriscaping tries to create a landscape that requires little to no water to sustain it. Some features of Xeriscaping include:

- Reducing the size of your lawn by planting drought resistant trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Use of native plants that thrive without added water, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Careful planning of the landscape. The extra work required to create a xeriscaped yard will pay off with a decrease in both the amount of time and money required to maintain the yard.
- Check out *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape: Low maintenance, water-efficient gardening* by Sara Williams. University of Saskatchewan Extension Press, 1997.

The Process

1. Develop a Landscape Plan

- Look at your yard's topography (hills and valleys), exposure (how much direct sun it gets) and soil type (sandy, silty, well-drained or moist). Do not try to fight your natural landscape—water runs downhill, so allow that to work for you.
- Create planting zones and group your plants by their needs. For example, place drought tolerant plants in areas exposed to full day sun, give less tolerant plants some partial shade and keep the more water demanding plants near your down spots and low lying areas.

2. Improving Your Soil

- Adding organic matter (compost) to the soil will develop the best soil conditions for healthy root growth. Organic matter will improve water penetration and retention in any type of soil, allowing roots to grow deeper into the soil.

3. Choosing Native (Climate/Region) Suited Plants

- Selecting plants that thrive in your region during low water conditions will greatly reduce your yard's water demand. This often includes native plants that we so often take for granted.

- Most local nurseries can provide you with a list of plants that are appropriate for your plant hardiness zone, soil type and exposure.

4. The Lawn

- Choose an appropriate grass seed for your growing region and the lawn's exposure to sunlight.
- Most of us still want some areas of lawn in our landscape, but many of us want way too much lawn. Focus on your yard's purposes and place turf only in recreational areas.
- If you are using grass as a ground cover, there are other options that would be less labour and water intensive.
 - Native ground cover plants (check with your local garden centre)
 - Interlocking brick pathway which allows drainage
 - Rock garden

5. Mulch

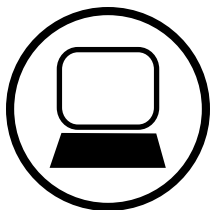
- Mulching is a naturally occurring process, but as gardeners we tend to want things tidy and we rake away all the leaves and debris that coat and decay into the soil. So we have to bring in more aesthetically pleasing mulch, such as shredded bark and compost.
- Mulch moderates soil temperature, holds moisture, slows erosion and suppresses weeds that would compete with your plants for food and water. It also gradually decomposes and feeds the soil.
- Apply about four inches of mulch at the initial planting and check it each season to see if it needs to be replenished.

6. Maintenance Plan

- Xeriscaping allows native plants to become well established therefore limiting weed growth. Some hand-weeding may still be required; however, your garden should out compete most weeds.
- Limited watering may also be required during extreme drought conditions.

Did You Know?

Agriculture Canada releases a Plant Hardiness Zone Map of Canada. It can be accessed on the internet and is an excellent tool to help you choose your plants. Plants grown within their hardiness zone will flourish without excess water, fertilizers and pesticides.



online resources

For more information on water conservation and references contained in this brochure visit:

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

- www.environmentalsociety.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

- www.swa.ca

SaskEnergy

- www.saskenergy.com

Natural Resources Canada

- www.nrcan.gc.ca

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

- www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/maho/la/la_001.cfm (soil types)
- www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/maho/la/la_004.cfm (lawn care)

Canadian Water and Wastewater Association

- www.cwwa.ca

United Nations International Decade for Action-Water for Life

- www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/

Waterwiser Drip Calculator

- www.awwa.org/awwa/waterwiser/dripcalc.cfm

Agriculture Canada – Plant Hardiness Zone Map of Canada (National Land and Water Information Service)

- <http://nlwis-snite1.agr.gc.ca/plant00/index.phtml>

Top 10 Conservation Efforts You Can Take Right Now!

- 1.** Pay attention to those dripping sounds and fix the leak(s).
- 2.** Reduce toilet tank capacity (replace it with a water efficient toilet or retrofit it to decrease the amount of water it uses).
- 3.** Replace your showerhead with a water efficient model. This saves as much as six gallons of water per minute!
- 4.** Install faucet aerators.
- 5.** Take shorter showers and wash hands using only as much water flow as you really need.
- 6.** Never run the dishwasher or washing machine without a full load.
- 7.** Turn off the taps while brushing your teeth.
- 8.** Ensure your sprinklers only spray on the areas that need water.
- 9.** Take your car to a car wash that recycles the water.
- 10.** Use a broom clean your driveway.



The Saskatchewan Environmental Society promotes and supports sustainable living and sustainable resource use in Saskatchewan. We work with, and on behalf of, communities, organizations, businesses and policy makers to encourage informed decision-making that moves us towards sustainability. Through research, education, community outreach, consultation and demonstration projects, we provide the people of Saskatchewan the tools they need to make and to support these informed decisions. For more information on SES programs and services, visit www.environmentalsociety.ca or call (306) 665-1915.



**Saskatchewan
Watershed
Authority**

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was established to manage and protect water quantity and quality. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is responsible for the implementation of Saskatchewan's Water Conservation Plan, which is a significant step toward a green and prosperous economy and will ensure greater attention is paid to water conservation as a social, environmental and economic driver. The plan emphasizes government leading by example, partnering with communities, agriculture and industry, and public education. The creation of this booklet in partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and with support from SaskEnergy is a part of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's commitment to water conservation in Saskatchewan. For more information on the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority visit www.swa.ca or call (306) 694-3900.



SaskEnergy is the natural gas distribution company in Saskatchewan. Natural gas is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel and produces fewer polluting emissions than any other fossil fuel. SaskEnergy is committed to helping the environment by supporting energy conservation initiatives, developing energy efficiency programs, and through educating customers on how they can use energy more wisely. For more energy saving tips or for information on current energy efficiency programs, visit www.saskenergy.com or call 1-800-567-8899.



A healthy, sustainable economy means finding solutions to environmental problems, reducing pollution, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and preserving the quantity and quality of our water supply. The Go Green Fund provides financial support to Saskatchewan's people, communities and businesses to help them Go Green.



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