



## WATER SAVING TIPS FROM WILLY WATER

1. Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.
2. Consider showering instead of taking a bath.
3. Try to take a five minute shower.
4. Bathe small children together.
5. Turn off shower when lathering up.
6. When taking a bath, close the drain and turn the hot water on first; then, add the cold water.  
**CAUTION:** Use care with small children.
7. Fill the bath  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  full.
8. Do not leave the tap running while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face or hands.
9. Do not thaw food under running water.
10. Wash vegetables and fruits in a pan or pot of water. (You can use the water saved in the pan for watering plants.)
11. Try not to use the garbage disposal. They can use as much as 2 gallons of water per minute.
12. When handwashing dishes, use two basins; one with soapy water for cleaning, the other for rinsing.
13. Do not pour grease or oil down the drain. It clogs the drain and large amounts of water are needed to rinse it out.
14. Keep a bottle of tap water in the refrigerator to avoid having to run the tap to get cold drinking water.
15. Wash only full loads of laundry or dishes, or set the cycle to match the size of the load.
16. Wash your car using a bucket instead of letting the hose run.
17. Sweep off your driveway - don't hose it down.
18. Repair leaking faucets, showers and toilets.
19. Retrofit faucets, showers and toilets with water-saving devices such as faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads and toilet inserts. These devices can pay for themselves in a few months!

## **Outdoor Use and Landscaping**

1. Infrequent deep watering of grass conserves more water than frequent light watering.
2. Do not overwater. This encourages weak grass to compete with other grasses.
3. In periods where there is a high probability of rain, don't water.
4. Watering should be done at night or in the early morning, when evaporation and wind are at a minimum.
5. Remove weak plants so that other plants can benefit from the water saved.
6. Older, established plants may only require infrequent watering.
7. Limit landscaping additions and alterations. In the future, design for landscapes and turfs which require less water.
8. Wash items such as bicycles and trash cans on the lawn and water grass at the same time.

## **Grass and Soil Conservation Techniques**

1. Aerification and spiking relieve soil compaction and assist water entry into soil.
2. Use peat moss, redwood bark or calcine clay where possible to retain moisture at turf root levels.
3. Use mulch on bald spots to retain moisture and discourage weeds.
4. Wetting agents can improve water retention in some areas. Wetting agents react differently depending upon soil content; care should be taken in making a selection.
5. Fertilize in cool weather using small doses of nutrients to build a strong plant. Fertilizing in the summer months induces growth, which requires additional watering and should be avoided.
6. Apply anti-transpirants where beneficial.
7. Grass length is an important factor in water usage. In the summer, mower blades should be raised. The optimum grass length depends upon many conditions, including the type of grass.
8. Remove thatch, which restricts water, air and nutrient movement into the turf's root zone.
9. Weeds compete for water and should be controlled by use of an appropriate registered herbicide or by hand removal.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Massachusetts Drinking Water Educational Partnership has additional information available at its web site at <http://www.madwep.org>.