

Rosenberg

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

HOME WATER CONSERVATION

We all know water is essential, but too many of us think it's unlimited. The United States uses more water per capita than anywhere else in the world. The reality is that fresh water is a finite resource that is becoming scarce. While water is constantly being recycled through the Earth's water cycle, people are using up our planet's fresh water faster than it can be replenished.

A warming climate is drying up our lakes and rivers. In Texas, as demand grows for expanding irrigation, communities, and industrial use, so too does the risk of contamination. The easiest, most cost-effective, and powerful thing we can do to protect and preserve water is learn to use less. <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/ConservingWater>

Using water wisely will save you money on your water and energy bills and will help to extend the life of existing supply and wastewater facilities.

The City of Rosenberg is working to comply with Fort Bend Subsidence District mandates to reduce groundwater withdrawal by 30% in 2016 and 60% by the year 2025. To prepare the community for this mandate, Rosenberg City Council authorized the execution of a Water Supply Agreement with the Brazosport Water Authority to deliver 3 million gallons of surface water to the City each day. Rosenberg has already secured additional alternative water supply by amending that agreement to allow for an additional 2.7 million gallons of treated surface water, daily. This puts us well on our way to achieving the 60% reduction requirement.

As we tackle challenges that face a growing City, we always have our eye on the future and the stability and security of our citizens. We are putting systems like the alternative water supply project in place to ensure future generations of citizens and businesses will be in good hands.

Look out for Leaks!

Leaks could account for 10 percent or more of your water bill and waste both energy and water.

The water meter can be used to check for invisible or unnoticed leaks.

Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances.

Read the dial on the water meter and record the reading. (It is often located along the property line near the street.)

Recheck the meter after 15 to 20 minutes.

If no water has been used and the reading has changed, a leak is occurring somewhere in the plumbing system. The services of a plumber or trained water utility employee are often required to locate and fix these invisible leaks.

Leaks can waste more than a trillion gallons of water annually in the US according to WaterSense, a division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Leaks can come from toilets, faucets, shower-heads, or even outdoor spigots. Many are a simple fix and it will go a long way in saving money on your water bill and conserving water for the environment.

Practice Good Indoor Water Conservation Habits

WATER-WISE ROOM-BY-ROOM

KITCHEN

- Run the dishwasher with a full load to save water, energy, detergent, and money.
- Use the dishwasher's short wash cycle if your dishes are only lightly soiled.
- Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing them and do not pre-rinse dishes if you are using the dishwasher.
- Fill a basin or the sink with soapy water instead of letting the water run continuously when washing dishes by hand. Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.
- Rinse produce in a pan of cold water instead of letting the water run.
- Transfer frozen foods to the refrigerator to defrost the night before you need them instead of letting water run over them.
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator rather than running tap water until it is cool enough to drink.
- Limit the use of garbage disposals and consider composting.

LAUNDRY ROOM

- Wash only full loads.
- Match the load setting with the amount of laundry to be washed if you must wash partial loads.
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads as it uses less water than other cycles.

Look for EnergyStar products when it comes to dishwashers and laundry machines that will save on both water and electricity costs and avoid waste of power and water.

BATHROOM

- Don't use your toilet as a trash can for paper and facial tissues.
- Turn water off when you aren't using it.
- Run water just to wet your toothbrush instead of allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth.
- Apply the same idea when washing your hands.
- Use only as much water as you need.
- Take shorter showers instead of a bath.
- Use water-efficient shower-heads, which often use less water than a bath.
- Turn off the water while you are shampooing your hair and especially while using leave-in conditioners.

INSTALL WATER-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

TOILETS

Toilets are by far the main source of water use in home, accounting for approximately 30 percent of indoor water use. They also happen to be a major source of leaks and/or inefficiency. Under state and federal law, toilets must not exceed 1.28 gallons per flush.

Over the course of your lifetime, you will likely flush the toilet nearly 140,000 times. If you install a high-efficiency toilet, you can save 4,000 gallons per year.

To determine if the toilet is leaking, take these steps: Remove the tank lid after the tank has stopped filling. Check for a visible leak or hear water running.

To find other, less obvious leaks, perform the following test: Mix a few drops of food coloring or place a dye capsule or tablet

(available from home improvement centers and many utilities) into the water in the toilet tank. Do not flush the toilet. Wait about 10 minutes and if the dye appears in the toilet bowl, the toilet has a silent leak.

Check toilet parts regularly. Replace worn parts with good quality parts as necessary, and retest to make sure the leak has been fixed. The average indoor use in a conserving North American single-family is 45.2 gallons per capita per day, and in a non-conserving home it is 69.3 gallons per capita per day.

Dual-Flush Toilet Requirements	Single-Flush Toilet Requirements
The average flush volume of two reduced flushes and one full flush may not exceed 1.28 gallons .	The average flush volume may not exceed 1.28 gallons.

SHOWERS

Take shorter showers. A 5-minute shower uses only 10-25 gallons. A full bathtub; however, can require up to 70 gallons of water. Installing a water efficient shower-head is one of the single most effective water-saving steps you can take inside your home.

SINKS

Installing faucet aerators on sinks is a simple, cost-effective way to save water. The faucet's efficiency can double without sacrificing performance. Aerators are inexpensive and do not require special adapters. Faucet leaks are usually caused by worn washers or "O" rings (for a washer-less faucet), which are inexpensive and easily replaced. Note the faucet brand and take the original part with you to a home improvement center.

WASHING MACHINES:

When buying a washer, look for a high-efficiency model that has adjustable water levels for different load sizes. High-efficiency

washers use 35 to 55 percent less water and 50 percent less energy. They also require less detergent, rinse more thoroughly, are less abrasive on clothes, and can fit larger capacity loads in the same size of drum.

Wait until you have a full load of laundry

DISHWASHERS

High-efficiency dishwashers use a maximum of 7 gallons per load, but some use as little as 4.5 gallons. Replacing an older model with a water-efficient model could cut dishwasher water in half. Look for energy efficiency features to cut costs even more.

Only wash full loads and scrape dishes instead of pre-rinsing. When you scrape off excess food rather than running the faucet to pre-rinse them, you are saving yourself up to 20 gallons of water a year. The rinse feature on your dishwasher also uses a fraction of the water that it would take to rinse dishes by hand.

MASTER SHUT-OFF VALVE

Every house has a master shutoff valve for the water.

Making sure you know where the shutoff valve is located could save you water and prevent damage to your home in the event of a major leak that could lead to minor or major flooding. The valve is usually located in the basement or, if you don't have a basement, on an outside wall in a utility area.

The main shutoff valve is a pipe that allows water to flow. Turning off this valve will close off that water supply to the entire house. This is useful if you have water leaking and want to avoid damage to your home or excessive loss of water while you are waiting for the leak to be professionally repaired.



Texas Water Development Board

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WATER
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SM
Know your water.

WWW.WATERIQ.ORG



City OF *Rosenberg*

The City of Rosenberg is working hard to ensure the future of the quality and quantity of our water. For more information on how you can do your part to conserve water, or to learn more about the efforts being made by the City and in compliance with local mandates, contact Customer Service at the number below.

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