



Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Water Conservation Tips

What You Can Do

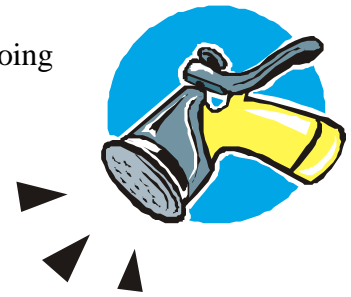
There are many things that we can all do to conserve water at home.

If you are on a municipal water supply, conserving water also saves you money. If you have your own well, you may already have water conservation measures in place.

Here are some suggestions for conserving water around the home.

In the Yard

- ❖ Don't water your lawn. A healthy lawn will survive a dry period by going dormant.
- ❖ Let your lawn grow to four inches in length, then cut it to three inches to promote deeper root growth. This helps make your grass more drought tolerant.
- ❖ If you must water your lawn, it is better to water once a week, using only 25mm (1 inch) of water. Measure the amount of water your lawn is receiving by placing a small can, like an empty tuna can, on the lawn to collect water. Use a ruler to measure the amount accumulated.



- ❖ Do not over water. The soil cannot store excess water to be used later. Proper watering encourages deep root growth, which makes lawns and gardens healthier and better able to survive dry periods.
- ❖ Do your watering early in the morning or late at night to reduce evaporation from the sun. Watering during the middle of the day is a waste.
- ❖ Prioritize your watering. New plants need more frequent watering than well-established ones.
- ❖ Trees need watering especially during a prolonged drought. Thoroughly water established trees every two to three months during the dry season.
- ❖ Use mulch around your plants. A two to four-inch layer of mulch helps the soil to retain moisture and also helps to reduce weeds.
- ❖ Use a rain barrel to catch rain and use this to water your outdoor plants and gardens.



More tips 



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In the Yard (cont.)

- ❖ Use a broom, instead of a hose, to sweep sidewalks and driveways.
- ❖ Cover swimming pools when not in use to prevent evaporation.



In the House

❖ Check all taps, toilets and other household appliances regularly for leaks. Leaks can waste 400 litres of water per household every day.

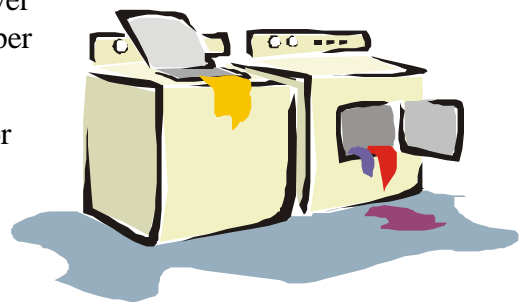
❖ Use aerators or flow reducers on taps.

❖ Never leave the water running while washing the dishes or cleaning vegetables. Partially fill the sink with water instead.

❖ Store bottles of drinking water in the fridge instead of running the tap for cold water.



- ❖ Have short showers rather than baths. Use low flow shower heads. These can reduce your water use by more than 40 per cent.
- ❖ Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ❖ Wash only full loads of laundry. An average load of laundry uses about 200 litres of water.



- ❖ Flushing the toilet uses a lot of water. It accounts for 45 per cent of household water use. If you are renovating your bathroom, consider replacing your toilet with a low flow model.



Sources: Environment Canada, Landscape Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Quinte Conservation
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