Did You Know?

Less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people?

The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

As our population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

In DuPage County, the average person uses 106 gallons of water each day. Approximately 69% of this water is used inside the home for daily tasks.

Do you know how much water you use for daily tasks?

Use this pamphlet to find out how much water you use in and around the home. For tips on reducing your water use, contact your local water utility or visit www.preservingeverydrop.com. Check out the indoor and outdoor water use pamphlets on the website.

Water conservation allows us to use water more efficiently and reduce water waste. ***Making a habit of conservation makes sense.*** Water conservation helps protect our water supply for the future, saves energy and saves money.

Next Steps

Now that you understand how much water you use every day inside the home, **can you think of ways to reduce your use?**

Make a commitment to using less water and helping DuPage County to *Preserve Every Drop.* Take the water conservation pledge today by visiting www.preservingeverydrop.com.

Get started by trying the to water saving tips below:

- **Limit water waste at the sink** by running water just to wet and rinse the toothbrush instead of allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth.
- **Put timers in your family bathrooms** to encourage shorter showers. Reducing your time in the shower by one minute will save hundreds of gallons per household each month.
- **Dry scrape dishes** instead of rinsing them and limit pre-rinsing of dishes if you are using the dishwasher.
- **Replace older shower heads** with new low-flow models.
- **Use a broom instead of a hose** to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- Adjust sprinklers so you **don't water the house, sidewalk, or street.**
- Use a timer to keep track of watering time and **avoid overwatering.**

PRESERVING EVERY DROP

WATER QUIZ

How Much Water Do You Use?

villa park
THE GARDEN VILLAGE

Fill in the blanks below and calculate your indoor water use.

Showers = _____ (Number of Minutes the Water is Running) x 2.5 (Gallons/Minute) = _____ **Total Water Use from Showers**

Baths = _____ (Put a 1 for a Half Bath and a 2 for a Full Bath) x 18 (Gallons) = _____ **Total Water Use from Baths**

Toilets = _____ (Number of Times You Flush the Toilet) x 1.6 (Gallons) = _____ **Total Water Use from Toilets**

Brushing Your Teeth = _____ (Number of Minutes the Water is Running) x 2.5 (Gallons) x _____ (Number of Times You Brush Your Teeth) = _____ **Total Water Use from Brushing Your Teeth**

Washing Your Hands = _____ (Number of Minutes the Water is Running) x 2.5 (Gallons) X _____ (Number of Times You Wash Your Hands) = _____ **Total Water Use from Washing Your Hands**

Washing Your Dishes = _____ (Number of Minutes the Water is Running) x 2.5 (Gallons) = _____ **Total Water Use from Washing Your Dishes**

Dishwasher = _____ (Number of Loads of Dishes per Week) x 15 (Gallons) ÷ 7 (Days/Week) = _____ **Total Water Use from the Dishwasher**

Your Laundry = _____ (Number of Loads of Laundry per Week) x 44 (Gallons) ÷ 7 (Days/Week) = _____ **Total Water Use from the Laundry**

What's Your Daily Use?

Add up the total number for each category and that is how much water you use every day. Can you think of ways to use a little less?

Water Use Basics

Maximum flow rates for residential and commercial fixtures and appliances are regulated by the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 1992. These rates were designed to require manufacturers to increase the water use of their products. Older fixtures and appliances use more water, often several times more water. Below are some flow rates for standard items you may find in your home. Can you calculate how much water you would save by replacing an older fixture with a new one?

Toilet
New: 1.6 gallons per flush
Older: 3.5 – 7 gallons per flush

Showerhead
New: 2.5 gallons per minute
Older: 3 – 8 gallons per minute

Laundry Machine
Front-loader: 13 – 20 gallons
Conventional top-loader: 35 – 50 gallons