

## Resources



### Conservation Tips

Water quality and quantity are closely linked; as the amount of water decreases and the quality will also be reduced because there is less water to dilute contaminants. Communities can protect drinking water by reducing water consumption.

- ✓ A running hose uses 500 litres of water in an hour. When washing the car try using a bucket and sponge or use a commercial car wash instead of a hose
- ✓ A leaking tap wastes 25 litres of water a day or 9,000 litres per year
- ✓ Instead of letting the tap run, use a basin to wash your fruit and vegetables and give the leftover water to your potted plants or the garden. Bathtub water can also be used to water plants
- ✓ Do you leave the tap running when brushing your teeth? A running tap loses 6 litres of water per minute
- ✓ Spend less time in the shower – around 5 minutes is good. Baths use more than twice the volume of water as a shower
- ✓ Use a rain barrel so that when you have to water your plants you are truly conserving
- ✓ Install low flow shower heads, adjustable hose nozzles and low-flush toilets

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
[www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)

GreenUP  
[www.greenup.on.ca](http://www.greenup.on.ca)

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
[www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment](http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment)

Otonabee Region Conservation Authority  
[www.otonabee.com](http://www.otonabee.com)

Peterborough County-City Health Unit  
[www.pcchu.ca](http://www.pcchu.ca)

Peterborough Utilities  
[www.peterboroughutilities.ca](http://www.peterboroughutilities.ca)

Trent Source Protection Plan  
[www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca](http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca)

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# WATER SMART

**Protecting water  
from source to tap**

**Balance conservation and  
action.**



# WATER SMART

## Why Conserve Water

Although most of the earth is covered with water, only 1% of that water is actually drinkable.

It is easy to forget all the necessary treatments water undergoes prior to reaching your faucet.

Conserving water and using it more efficiently is something that everyone can do.

Traditional water resource management that focused on developing water supplies and expanding treatment facilities is evolving as we realize that wasteful uses of water can deplete local reserves faster than they can be replenished.

Practicing water conservation also has an impact on how much wastewater is produced. It extends the life of onsite systems, improves the performance of wastewater systems that have flows capacity and reduces operating costs.

Comprehensive water conservation programs can help communities delay in having to build new wastewater facilities or reduce the size of those facilities.

Water efficiency measures can also lower the water, sewer, and energy bills of the homeowner, reducing the water utility and operating costs.



## Water. Waste Not, Want Not.

The phrase “waste not, want not” is a key theme when it comes to water conservation. Canadians and Americans use an average of 300 litres of water per day – more than any other country.

### Some Quick Water Facts. *Did you know?*

- ✓ Less than 3% of the water that is treated for municipal use is actually consumed as drinking water. So where are we using the remaining 97%?
- ✓ 75% of indoor home water use occurs in our bathrooms
- ✓ Standard toilets use 40%+ more water per flush than needed to do the job
- ✓ A 5 minute shower with a standard showerhead uses 100 litres of water but a low flow showerhead uses 35 litres of water
- ✓ A traditional washing machine uses 130-250 litres of water to clean one large load
- ✓ Lawn and garden watering increases demand for water by 50%. Watering thoroughly once a week in early morning or evening is more effective than watering daily
- ✓ One lawn sprinkler spraying 19 litres per minute uses 50% more water than 10 toilet flushes, two 5 minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of laundry combined

## Conservation = Cleaner and More Abundant Water

Water conservation is a means of providing cleaner and more consistent access to water for all.

All of the water on earth is recycled. However, we do not have an infinite supply. Even in Canada, practicing water conservation is vital.

For individuals living with private wells and septic systems, controlling water use around a rural property helps ensure that well water is always available. A conservative approach to water use also reduces the amount of water flowing into septic systems, preventing system overload.

For municipal water users, the incentive to conserve is often driven by cost. If a community can reduce its water consumption, it can save on expensive infrastructure development which results in lower water bills and/or taxes.

*Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Once established, they do not need water as frequently and usually will survive a dry period without watering.*

