

WATER CONSERVATION IN OUR REGION

In the North Okanagan, we have a variety of measures in place to promote water conservation and efficiency. These include:

- 
the continued use of reclaimed water (the treated end product from a wastewater facility) to irrigate golf courses;
- 
the Master Water Plan which ensures a reliable cost-effective supply of water for current and future use while minimizing environmental impact;
- 
the Watershed Assessment and Protection Plan which is a framework for implementing water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives;
- 
the Okanagan Irrigation Management (OKIM) Program which provides agricultural customers with an online tool for monitoring and optimizing their water consumption levels using irrigation recommendations based on crop type, soil, and current weather;
- 
public education programs on water conservation which are actively promoted through school programs, newspaper articles, mall displays, events and other initiatives.

We can be proud of our community's efforts to conserve water. It's easy to take water for granted, especially in an area surrounded by lakes. By using water wisely we ensure there is enough for human and animal consumption, agriculture and local businesses, and a healthy environ-

DID YOU KNOW...



The average Canadian uses 120,000L of water per year.



A slow, steady drip wastes 1600 L of water per month.



A leaking toilet can waste 400 L of water per day.



Leaks account for 14% of water use.



A low flow shower head can save up to 40,000L of water per year.



Plants only need 3 cm of water each week.

We invite your active participation!
For more information or to get involved,
please contact:



Greater Vernon Water Utility
9848 Aberdeen Road
Vernon, BC V1B 2K9

Phone: 250-542-8410
Fax: 250-550-3703
www.rdno.ca

51 WAYS

to conserve water



Using the 4 Rs of WaterWise

REDUCE REPAIR RETROFIT REUSE

WE CAN MAKE SMALL DIFFERENCES IN OUR HABITS TO REDUCE WATER USE.	CHECK FIXTURES REGULARLY, A MINOR LEAK CAN WASTE 66 L A DAY.	UPGRADE APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES TO MORE WATER EFFICIENT ONES.	REUSE GREY WATER OR HARVEST RAIN WATER.
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Water Efficiency Guide

Before you turn on the tap...

Consider that the water has been treated to provide safe drinking water. When it goes down the drain it must be treated again before it is discharged into the environment.

Small changes in our daily habits can lead to some big savings:

MONEY Processing water is an expensive job. Reducing water use can delay upsizing water and sewage systems, not to mention give you significant savings on your water bill.

ENERGY 20% of a typical utility bill is from heating water in the bathroom, laundry room, and kitchen.

ENVIRONMENT By reducing water use, you help reduce the introduction of chlorine and other chemicals into the environment.

INDOORS

REDUCE

1. Only operate dishwasher when full.
2. Only pre rinse very dirty dishes.
3. Follow manual for proper loading of dishwasher.
4. When hand washing dishes, partially fill one sink with rinse water instead of running the tap.
5. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge instead of running water to cool it.
6. Partially fill the sink to clean fruits and vegetables instead of rinsing.
7. Defrost food overnight in the fridge instead of running under water.

REPAIR

8. Regularly check faucets, taps, dishwasher and fittings for leaks and repair them.

RETROFIT

9. When purchasing a new dishwasher, select units with low consumption features.

REUSE

10. Reuse grey water (from laundry, bath, showers, and sinks) to water plants, shrubs and ground cover.
11. Reuse water from rinsing dishes and cleaning fruits and vegetables to water plants.

kitchen

REDUCE

12. Toilets aren't a garbage can.
13. Reduce water per flush: Displace water using a plastic bottle filled with sand and sealed tightly.
14. Consider flushing only for solid waste, or every few uses.
15. Try to limit showers to 3-5 minutes.
16. Turn off shower when sudsing up and shampooing.
17. Avoid shaving in shower.
18. Only fill tub 1/4 full— it's all you need.
19. Use a stopper in the sink and small amount of water when shaving.
20. Use a glass of water to rinse when brushing your teeth.

bathroom

REPAIR

21. Check for toilet leaks by adding drops of food colour in the tank. If color appears in the bowl you may have a leak.
22. Repair overflow pipe leaks by adjusting float arm until water level is 1.5 cm below top of overflow pipe.
23. Repair defective plunger ball and outlet valve.
24. Check faucets for leaks and replace washers if needed.

RETROFIT

25. Utilize early stop devices and toilet tank dams.
26. Convert to low flush toilets.
27. New low flow shower heads use half the water.
28. Install aerators on your faucets.
29. Upgrade to low flow fixtures when renovating/ building.

laundry room

REDUCE

30. Only wash full loads or adjust water level as necessary.
31. Use shortest cycle possible.
32. Use cold water for all clothes that aren't heavily soiled.

REPAIR

33. Regularly check faucets, taps, hoses, and fittings and replace when needed.

RETROFIT

34. Check the amount of water your washer uses. A regular cycle can vary from 113-188 L.
35. If buying a new washer, select a low consumption unit.

REUSE

New regulations in BC allow reclaimed water (meeting standards) to be used for toilet flushing, lawn/ vegetable irrigation, and other urban, agricultural, and recreational uses. Over 4 billion L of reclaimed water is used this way per year.

OUTDOORS

lawns, gardens, and more!

REDUCE

36. Don't mow, let it grow. Longer grass (5cm+) holds moisture better and shades its roots, so it requires less water.
37. How much water your garden/ lawn need depends on weather. Irrigate once a week and skip a week after rain. Don't water more than once every 4 days, even in dry times.
38. 3cm a week of water is perfect to keep your lawn healthy. To determine how long it takes to get 3cm, place a tuna can under the sprinkler and see how long it takes to fill it 3/4 full. This is how much you should water per week.
39. Water early morning or late evening when it's coolest.
40. Consider new low water turfs when planting a lawn.
41. Give your car a sponge bath, not a shower, over your lawn, not on the driveway!
42. Use your broom to clean sidewalks and driveways, not your hose.

REPAIR

43. Check hoses and fittings for leaks.
44. Sprinklers may require maintenance like lubrication.
45. Clean sprinkler filters and check nozzles are not clogged.

RETROFIT

46. Low spray patterns that suits the size/shape of your lawn.
47. Try an automatic timer that delivers the right time of day and the appropriate amount. (Remember that this changes seasonally)
48. Drip systems are a highly efficient irrigation choice.
49. Install rain sensors on automatic systems to shut off during rainy periods.
50. Consider planting drought tolerant plants.
51. Install Xeriscaping (Water Efficient Landscaping). This is a planning and design approach to landscaping that uses low maintenance, drought resistant plants/grasses .

REUSE

Consider a rain harvesting system, such as rain barrels, to use rain water for watering plants or even irrigation!
Reusing grey water in your yard is also a great option.

