

Water Conservation Tips issued by Pete's Lake Water Users Society¹

Please note: Each new application for service from Pete's Lake Water Users Society must be reviewed on a case by case basis by the board of directors. New members will be restricted to a 1-inch valve off of the main line with a \$50.00 initial hook up fee.

PETE'S LAKE WATER USERS SOCIETY IS ON A PERMANENT BOIL WATER ADVISORY.

Water conservation in the home...

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks.

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

2. Don't use the toilet, if you have one, as an ashtray or wastebasket, and check it for leaks.

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted. Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

4. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.

Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Also, long, hot showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.

5. Insulate your water pipes.

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

6. Take shorter showers.

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, and then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

7. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing. Do not use raw, untreated water.

8. Rinse your razor in the sink.

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

9. Use your dishwasher, if you have one, and clothes washer for only full loads.

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings. With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 20 liters (5 gallons) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, consider buying a water-saving frontload washer. Do not use raw, untreated water.

10. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.

If you have a double-basin sink; fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water. Do not use raw, untreated water.

¹ Modified from the Eartheasy website. For more helpful information, please visit <http://eartheasy.com/>

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11. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Do not use raw, untreated water.

12. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle.

Water conservation in the yard and garden...

1. Plant drought-resistant shrubs and plants.

Many beautiful shrubs and plants thrive with far less watering than other species. Replace herbaceous perennial borders with native plants. Native plants will use less water and be more resistant to local plant diseases. Plant slopes with plants that will retain water and help reduce runoff. Group plants according to their watering needs.

2. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.

Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture while discouraging weed growth. Adding 2 - 4 inches of organic material such as compost or bark mulch will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture. Press the mulch down around the drip line of each plant to form a slight depression which will prevent or minimize water runoff.

3. Deep-soak your yard and garden.

When watering the garden, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. Overhead and hand sprinkling, rather than drip irrigation, can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems. Always drip irrigate if you can.

4. Water during the early parts of the day; avoid watering when it's windy.

Early morning is generally better than dusk, since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Early watering, and late watering, also reduce water loss to evaporation. Watering early in the day is also the best defence against slugs and other garden pests. Try not to water when it's windy - wind can speed up evaporation.

5. Add organic matter and use efficient watering systems for shrubs, flower beds and lawns.

Adding organic material to your soil will help increase its absorption and water retention. Areas which are already planted can be 'top dressed' with compost or organic matter. Avoid over-watering plants and shrubs, as this can actually diminish plant health and cause yellowing of the leaves. When hand watering, use a spray nozzle for targeted watering.

6. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and decks.

7. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings.

Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

Water Conservation Summary

Saving water at home does not require any significant cost outlay. Although there are water-saving appliances and water conservation systems such as rain barrels, drip irrigation and on-demand water heaters which are more expensive, the bulk of water saving methods can be achieved at little cost.

By using water-saving features you can reduce your in-home water use by 35%. This means the average household, which uses 130,000 gallons per year, could save 44,000 gallons of water per year. On a daily basis, the average household, using 350 gallons per day, could save 125 gallons of water per day. The average individual, currently using 70 gallons per day, could save 25 gallons of water per day.

Finally, it should be noted that installing low-flow aerators, showerheads, tank banks and other water-saving devices usually is a very simple operation which can be done by the homeowner and does not even require the use of tools. Water conservation at home is one of the easiest measures to put in place, and saving water should become part of everyday family practice. When parents take the time to teach children some of the simple water-saving methods around the home, it can make a big difference.

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