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Special points of interest:

- Learn 25 things you can do to prevent water waste!
- Installing water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors can save 500—800 gallons water per month!
- Recycle coffee grounds—it makes excellent mulch yard mulch!
- Water conservation saves money and helps the environment!

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Water Conservation Tips & Information

City Encourages Efficient Use of Water in Community!

The City of Sweet Home continues to implement several steps and/or programs to encourage efficient use of water within the community. The programs mainly include regulatory and operation and maintenance alternatives which help reduce water consumption. These programs include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Use of constant water rates
- Create water rates based on meter size and amount of water used
- System wide “leak detection” surveys within the public right-of-way.

Another way the City is promoting conservation is through this newsletter. Throughout this newsletter you will find useful information and tips on how you can conserve our most important natural resource at home.

For other useful tips and information including a helpful and free home water use audit visit the “Water—Use It Wisely” website at www.wateruseitwisely.com



Conservation efforts can save customers \$\$ in Sweet Home!

If a Residential customer with a 3/4” service meter in the City of Sweet Home typically using 1,000 cubic feet of water each month were able to implement conservation measures that helped them reduce their monthly usage to 900 cubic feet, that customer

could expect to save \$7.48 on their monthly water bill alone.

A \$89.76 ANNUAL SAVINGS.

(Illustration only. Actual dollar amounts saved via conservation measures will vary amongst customer meter size, classification, and methods incorporated)



Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.

Fresh, clean drinking water is yours to use whenever you need it—but not to waste!

9 things you can do to save water in the bathroom

1. **Check your toilets for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. **Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.** Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bits of trash, you waste 5—7 gallons of water.
3. **Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank.** To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill them with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten or more gallons of water a day.
4. **Take shorter showers.** Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. This can save 5-10 gallons every unneeded minute.
5. **Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors.** Your local hardware stores stock inexpensive and easy to install fixtures.
6. **Take baths.** A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.
7. **Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.** There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just rinse your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
8. **Rinse your razor in the sink.** Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This rinses your blade just as well as running water—and is far less wasteful.
9. **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Large leaks waste hundreds.

6 things you can do to save water in the kitchen or laundry

1. **Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.**
2. **Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads.**
3. **If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.** If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water.
4. **Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.** Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.
5. **Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.** Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.
6. **Check the faucets and pipes for leaks.** Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week and often can be repaired with just an inexpensive washer.



Wash full loads only—can save 800 gallons water per month

10 things you can do to save water outside

1. **Water your lawn only when it needs it.** A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the sprinkler.
2. **Deep-soak your lawn.** When you do water, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it does the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.
3. **Water during the cool parts of the day.** Early morning generally is better than dusk because it helps prevent growth of fungus.
4. **Don't water the gutter.** Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn, not on paved areas. Also avoid watering on windy days.
5. **Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.** Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species.
6. **Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch slows evaporation of moisture and discourages weed growth.
7. **Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.**
8. **Don't run the hose while washing your car.** Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just for rinsing.
9. **Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.**
10. **Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings.** Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad because they're not as visible. But, they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.



Leaking water hoses can be as wasteful as leaks inside the building.

A little effort and a little common sense make a BIG difference!



Leaks can be expensive!

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We're on the Web!
www.ci.sweet-home.or.us

The City of Sweet Home, as operators of a Municipal Water System, is required to publish information that informs and promotes water conservation within the community. This newsletter is intended to help complete this mission and provide general tips on how consumers can be active participants in our local conservation measures.

We encourage individuals to share their comments on how this information has helped them conserve our important and vital natural resource of water. We also ask that ideas, tips, and/or other conservation information not listed here be shared with us so we can provide to the entire community.

Please feel free to contact our offices at 541-367-6243 with helpful suggestions on making this newsletter better and as informative as possible.

Use water...but use it wisely!

Fresh, clean drinking water is yours to use whenever you need it—but not to waste. It's too valuable. Remember that a little effort and a little common sense make a big difference.

Following the tips in this newsletter can help save thousands of gallons of water every year in every household. That's right, thousands! So be alert. If you see water being wasted in your home, tighten up. If you see it being wasted anywhere else, speak up.

