



Make Every Drop Count

A Message From the Arizona Corporation Commission

Water is a precious resource, especially in Arizona, where our desert climate provides a very limited supply. As public utility regulators, we share your concern for preserving our way of life while still conserving and protecting this precious natural resource.

Why do we pay for water anyway?

You might wonder what you are paying for when you pay your water utility bill. You are paying for the costs of pumping the water up from an underground aquifer, treating it for contaminants that naturally occur in our soils, transporting it through a network of pumps and underground pipes, and, finally, delivering it to your home. It also costs your utility to maintain and upgrade their systems periodically so that you have a reliable, dependable source of water. Here are some hints to help you hold water bills down, and conserve this essential commodity.



Inside the House In the Kitchen

- ◆ Repair leaks immediately. Check every faucet in your home (inside and out) for leaks. Believe it or not, 15 to 20 gallons a day can be lost to a slow drip. Many times a washer is all that is needed to stop the leak.
- ◆ A lot of water goes down the drain needlessly because in the past it has always been plentiful and cheap. Become conscious of the *amount of water you're using* and look for ways to use less whenever you can.
- ◆ Keep a container of water in the refrigerator for drinking, instead of cooling water by letting it run down the drain.
- ◆ When using the dishwasher or clothes washer, do only full loads.

In the Bathroom

- ◆ Closing the stopper and filling the sink with water is a better way to wash your hands or shave than letting the water run down the drain.
- ◆ When taking a tub bath, close the stopper before running the water. Watch the depth of water in the tub. A tub filled about 6 inches deep (about halfway) requires about 25 gallons of water.



- ◆ Install a flow restrictor in your shower head or replace it with a low-flow shower head.
- ◆ "Navy" showers save even more water. Turn on the water to wet down, then turn it off. Soap up, then turn the water back on to rinse off.
- ◆ To check for a leaky toilet, put food coloring or a dye capsule into the tank. If the water in the bowl changes color without flushing the toilet, there's a leak.
- ◆ Toilet dams, which are flexible plastic or metal panels, fit inside the tank and reduce the amount of water used to flush the toilet. This saves about 1 to 2 gallons of water with each flush.



Outside the House

- ◆ A single lawn sprinkler spraying 5 gallons per minute uses 50% more water in just 1 hour than a combination of 10 toilet flushes, 2 five minute showers, 2 dishwasher loads and a full load of clothes. Water lawns only when required. Soaking only when needed is better than daily sprinkling.
- ◆ Water your plants in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Slow watering, such as that provided by a drip system, is one of the most efficient methods of irrigating plants.
- ◆ Check hoses and connectors for leaks and repair them.
- ◆ Use water-saving hose attachments such as a nozzle which can be shut off or adjusted to fine spray.
- ◆ To save moisture, use mulch in the garden and around shrubs and trees.
- ◆ When you are through watering, turn water off at the house instead of the nozzle to avoid leaks.
- ◆ Sweep sidewalks and driveways clean with a broom instead of using the hose.
- ◆ Don't let the water run while washing your car. Instead, wash your car from a bucket of soapy water, then use the hose to rinse the car off quickly.
- ◆ If you're planning to re-landscape an area, consider low water use plants instead of planting a lawn — it's called xeriscape (pronounced ZEE-ruh-scape). Nurseries and the County Extension Service can help you select plants of the appropriate size and shape for **your desired landscape effect.**