



## WATER AWARENESS MONTH TIPS

### CHOOSE HOW YOU USE OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE IN YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

The Arizona Department of Water Resources and our water conservation partners are committed to helping Arizona residents conserve water. Using these conservation tips is just one of the ways that you can contribute to Arizona's culture of conservation.

#### CONSERVE OUTSIDE

- ▶ Plant low-water use and drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- ▶ Group plants according to their water needs.
- ▶ Minimize turf/grass areas.
- ▶ Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly. Repair leaks as necessary.
- ▶ Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system.
- ▶ Regularly check sprinkler systems and timing devices to be sure they are operating properly.
- ▶ Adjust sprinklers so only landscape is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- ▶ Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler.
- ▶ Reduce evaporation by using a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around plants.
- ▶ Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and deeper root systems.
- ▶ Weed yards and gardens regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for water.
- ▶ Track how much rain and irrigation your yard receives. Adjust watering schedules to the season.
- ▶ Shut off automatic watering systems when it rains or install a rain shut-off device.
- ▶ Collect and use rain water for watering your landscape.
- ▶ Install gutters and direct downspouts toward shrubs or trees.
- ▶ Direct the bleed-off water drain from an evaporative cooler to trees or shrubs.
- ▶ Water plants only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- ▶ Avoid over fertilizing. The application of fertilizers increases plant growth and the need for water. It is also a source of water pollution.
- ▶ Aerate lawns to better absorb water. Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
- ▶ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks, streets and parking areas.
- ▶ Equip swimming pools, fountains, ponds and other ornamental water features with re-circulating pumps.
- ▶ Reduce evaporation by using covers on swimming pools and spas.
- ▶ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. If washing a car at home, use a bucket with soapy water, and either turn off the water while soaping or use a shut-off hose nozzle.

## CONSERVE INSIDE

- ▶ Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Repair or replace as necessary.
- ▶ Replace high-volume toilets (3.5 gal. or more per flush) with the new standard of 1.6, or consider other high efficiency or dual flush models. Gallons per flush should be listed inside the tank or lid.
- ▶ Put food coloring in the toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl, there is a leak.
- ▶ Adjust or replace the flush valve and flapper as necessary.
- ▶ When washing dishes by hand, do not let the water run. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- ▶ Do not pre-rinse dishes unless you need to. Most new dishwashers do not require pre-rinsing.
- ▶ Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they have a full load or adjust water levels for smaller loads.
- ▶ Choose water-saving models when purchasing new appliances.
- ▶ Make sure each faucet has an aerator.
- ▶ Minimize the use of kitchen sink garbage disposals; they require a lot of water to operate properly.
- ▶ Check your water meter and bill to track water usage. If usage increases substantially, check for leaks and/or adjust the irrigation system.
- ▶ Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors.
- ▶ Keep showers under five minutes.
- ▶ Reuse clean household water. Collect the water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach the faucet or showerhead and use it to water plants.
- ▶ Consider installing a hot water re-circulating system.
- ▶ Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first, filling the tub only 1/3 full and then adjusting the temperature as the tub fills.
- ▶ Wash produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
- ▶ Use the wash water to water plants.
- ▶ Insulate hot water pipes so water does not have to run as long to get hot water to the faucet.
- ▶ Turn water treatment and softener units off while on vacation
- ▶ Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water by running the minimum number of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness. These units consume 15-120 gallons of water per 1,000 gallons processed.
- ▶ Limit use of reverse osmosis (RO) water purification systems. To get one gallon of RO water, most units waste 2-9 gallons of drinking water.

## CONSERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- ▶ Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
  - ▶ Encourage friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.
  - ▶ Encourage local educators and government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
  - ▶ Report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or water provider.
  - ▶ Teach children the importance of using water efficiently.
  - ▶ Do one thing every day to save water. Every person can make a difference.
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