



WATER CONSERVATION

Water is one of the largest expenses annually for your Association. The City of Houston increased the cost of water and sewer from approximately \$6.60 to \$8.61 per 1,000 gallons effective June 1, 2010. This 30% increase in the cost of water will have a significant effect on the Association's budget. There are many ways that you can conserve water and help your community minimize the impact of this increase. Below are some helpful water conservation tips.

Check your toilet for leaks.



A leak in your toilet may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day. To check, put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. Wait ten to 15 minutes. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak. Adjust or replace the flush valve or call a plumber. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring can stain the tank.)

Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors.



Most showerheads put out five to ten gallons of water per minute. Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive, water saving shower heads that use less than 3 gallons per minute. New technology and design of the low flow showerheads means you won't even notice the difference – except on your Association's water bill.

Check for leaks in faucets.



Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year. Multiply this by the number of homes in your Community and calculate the potential cost to the Association.

Turn off your water after you wet your toothbrush



After you have wet your toothbrush and filled a glass for rinsing your mouth, there is no need to keep water pouring down the drain.

Rinse your razor in the sink.

Before shaving, partially fill your sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as efficiently as running water, and far less wastefully.

Use your automatic dishwasher and your automatic washing machine for full loads only.



Your automatic washing machine uses 30-35 gallons of water in a cycle. Every time you run your dishwasher, you use about 25 gallons of water. Most washing machines and dishwashers have a water level regulator. To save water, use the appropriate settings.

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 one sink, gather all the washed dishes in the dish rack and rinse them with an inexpensive spray device.

Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables

Put a stopper in the sink and fill the sink with clean water.

