



June 1, 2020

With the water shortage advisory issued in Farmington every citizen must be concerned and come together to conserve water. We encourage everyone to conserve as much water as possible, not only for this summer but for your life. Visit the City's website for current conditions and alerts, [www.fmtn.org](http://www.fmtn.org). Below is some helpful information for you.

## Be water smart

*Making small lifestyle changes can make a big difference to saving water.*

Here are some simple things that you can do as part of your daily routine at home to save water:

### In the Bathroom

**Have a shower instead of a bath** - Showers use half the amount of water required for a bath.



**Spend less time in the shower** - An average shower uses 3 gallons of water per minute, so taking a shorter shower will save water.



**Remember to turn off the tap when brushing your teeth** - A running tap can use up to 2 gallons of water per minute.



**Consider adding a toilet tank bag** or brick to your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used in every flush.



### In the Kitchen

**Make sure your washing machine and dishwasher are always fully loaded** before putting on a wash to save water and money on energy bills. When buying water-consuming appliances, check the energy efficiency label to make sure you are buying the most energy efficient appliance you can.



**Use a basin or plug in the sink** - A basin is useful for washing dishes by hand or collecting the water you use to rinse fruit and vegetables, which can be used for watering plants.



**Keep a jug of water in the fridge** - Waiting for a tap to run cold water to drink can waste more than 3 gallons of water in a day.



**Choose the correct pot or pan size for cooking** and remember to use the lid on a pot or pan when cooking to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation, meaning you don't have to keep adding water in.





## In the Garden and Yard

**Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from gutters** - Collect rainwater to use in your garden instead of using drinking water from the tap.



**Use a rose head watering can** instead of a hose to water your plants to save water. The best time of the day to water plants is close to sunrise in order to reduce water evaporation and maximize plant use.



**Add layers of plant material**, like bark or straw, to the soil in your garden to help keep the sun off so that it can retain more water for your plants and you can save on water.



**Sweep Hard surfaces.** Use a broom, not a hose.



**Landscaping** uses about 70% of our summertime water!

- Do Not Water when winds are over 12 MPH
- Water only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday if you have an EVEN number address and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for an ODD numbered address
- Water only early in the morning
- Do Not Water on rainy days
- Do Not plant new landscaping
- Do Not fill or refill pools, fountains and hot tubs

## Water Leaks in the Home

**Checking for and repairing leaks around your home could easily save 8,000 gallons of water a year/leak!**



Repairing leaks can also help to prevent issues like reduced water pressure or water supply disruptions potentially affecting your home. Please keep in mind that a dripping faucet can waste 22 gallons or more per day. Repair leaks or defective sprinkler immediately, or sooner.

Here are some simple checks that you can carry out in your home to determine if there are any internal plumbing issues causing leaks:



### **Check the Toilet**

Is there a constant sound of water running from any of the toilets in your home? Check for a stream of water running inside the toilet bowl or place a piece of toilet paper on the inside back of the toilet bowl and see if it absorbs water.



### **Check all the Taps**

Check all your household and external garden taps for drips. A dripping tap can waste over 8,000 gallons of water per year (which is enough water to fill 20 bathtubs) and can be repaired by simply replacing the washer.



### **Tune up Evaporative Coolers**

### **Insulate Hot Water Heater & Pipes, if possible**

## **Water Saving Devices**

*There are a number of affordable and easy-to-use water saving devices that can help save water in homes.*

Here are a few examples of water saving devices that you could consider purchasing for your home or business:

### **Shower Timer**

Some showers can use a lot of water, particularly power showers, so by spending less time showering you can save water. You can use a shower timer to help calculate and reduce the time you spend in the shower.



### **Aerator tap / showerhead**

An aerator tap or showerhead pumps air into the water flow, which reduces the amount of water you use for the sink or the shower.



**Use a Car Wash** - Using a hose to wash your car uses more water in one hour than the average family uses in a day. Recirculating high pressure water is proven to save water best!

