

## WATER CONSERVATION CHECKLIST :



# RESIDENTIAL/HOUSING SECTOR

## EVERY DROP COUNTS!

### GETTING STARTED WITH USER EDUCATION/AWARENESS

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- Inform users of restrictions and provide water conservation tips through utility bill inserts, local newspapers/TV/radio ads, and municipal Web sites.
- Encourage users to report leaks immediately to facility management.
- Solicit conservation ideas from residents and publicize their success stories.
- Remind residential users that using less water reduces their utility bills. Encourage them to educate all household members about the importance of water conservation.
- Make municipal offices water conservation models by installing sink aerators, low-flow showerheads and toilets and advertise efforts among citizens.

### SHOWERS

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- Encourage shorter showers (Use shower timers). Saves 3-5 gallons for every minute shortened.
- Install low-flow showerheads (2.5 gpm). Payback comes in just a few months.
- Turn off water while shampooing and soaping.

### TOILETS

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- Never use the toilet as a wastebasket. Do not flush trash, cigarettes, etc.
- Test for leaks and leaking flappers. A leaking toilet can waste hundreds of gallons a year.
- Limit flushing.
- Install early-closing flapper valves. Saves 0.5 to 2 gallons per flush and is low cost.

- Install displacement bags. Saves 0.75 gallons per flush at a low cost.
- Consider toilet dams. Saves 0.5 to 1.0 gallons per flush at low cost.
- Install 1.6 gallons per flush toilets. Costs \$80-\$200, payback 1.5-4 years.

### SINKS

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- Install faucet aerators or flow restrictors (1.5 to 0.5 gpm). Installed costs are \$5-\$10, payback in months.
- Turn down faucet feed valves. Saves 50 percent or more on faucet water use.
- Do not run water while brushing teeth or shaving.

### KITCHEN

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- Do not use running water to thaw frozen foods. Defrost in refrigerator.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin with ponded water and not under running water.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes/serving wares/utensils before loading into dishwasher.
- Wash only full loads of dishes. Saves 5-6 gallons per dishwasher load.
- Add food waste to compost pile instead of using garbage disposal.

### LAUNDRY

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- Wash full loads only. Saves 17-25 gallons per clothes washer load.
- Set level controls (if available) to match load size.
- Install water efficient models which use 1/3 less water than other new models.



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## LANDSCAPING/MAINTENANCE

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- Do not water any plants, including grass, flowers, shrubs or trees using using sprinklers. Instead, use hand watering or drip irrigation.
- Water only when needed.
- Use alternative water sources to water plants, such as from rain barrels.
- Do not use sprinklers.
- Use mulch around plants and between rows to hold in moisture.
- Do not use water to cleanup pavement. Use a broom.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing down. A garden hose can use more than 10 gallons per minute.

Refer to Landscaping/Irrigation checklist for more detailed information.

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## POOL/SPA

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- Keep it covered! Use a pool cover to reduce water loss due to normal evaporation.
- Repair any swimming pool leaks. An inch-a-day leak in a 15-by-30-foot pool can waste approximately 102,000 gallons per year!
- If heated, reduce your pool and spa water temperature. Warmer water evaporates more quickly.
- Shut down unnecessary fountains and waterfalls. The effect of aeration loses a significant amount of water to evaporation.

- Evaluate filter backflush schedule, reduce backflushing to minimum necessary without compromising public health and safety.
- Maintain proper chemical levels and adequate circulation time. Not only will your pool water be safer and cleaner, but you'll avoid the need to drain your pool or use excessive water to correct conditions of neglect.

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## RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

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- H<sub>2</sub>Ouse** - <http://www.h2ouse.org>  
California Urban Water Conservation Council provides a room-by-room discussion of water-saving tips for homeowners.
- Water Wiser** - <http://www.waterwiser.org>  
American Water Works Association site is a clearinghouse that provides links to many sites that assist homeowners in conserving water.

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## SUCCESS STORY

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The Waste Reduction Partners [(828) 251-6622] located in Asheville conducted free water audits for the Asheville Housing Authority. The authority manages more than 1,296 units, which house over 2,335 residents. The audits concentrated on upgrading fixtures in more than 1,200 housing units that typically used 64.5 million gallons of water annually. The suggested toilet, sink and showerhead retrofits will save 23.5 million gallons of water per year and more than \$100,000 in reduced water and energy costs. Simple payback periods range from 1.02 to 2.57 years.



The North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance provides free, non-regulatory technical assistance and education on methods to eliminate, reduce, or recycle wastes before they become pollutants or require disposal. Call DPPEA at (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136 or e-mail [nowaste@p2pays.org](mailto:nowaste@p2pays.org), or visit DPPEA's Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org> for assistance with issues in this checklist or any of your waste reduction concerns.