



Water Conservation

The importance of water conservation in the Red River Valley is often ignored. Most people believe they are provided with an infinite amount of water, so it does not matter how much they consume. However, water conservation *is* important. Listed below are the typical amounts of water used by the average person.

<u>Water Use</u>	<u>Typical Usage</u>
Showering	20-40 gallons (5 gallons/minute)
Tub Bathing	36 gallons (full)
Toilet Flushing	6 gallons
Teeth Brushing	2 gallons (faucet running)
Shaving	3-5 gallons (faucet running)
Dish Washing	20 gallons (faucet running)
Automatic Dishwasher	15 gallons (full cycle)
Washing Machine	40-60 gallons
Outdoor Watering	5-10 gallons/min

Table condensed from A River Runs North

By following the tips shown on this page, the amount of water waste can be *drastically* reduced. There are many simple ways that every household can help. It might not seem like very much, but if everyone pulls together to do their small part, a considerable amount of water will be saved.

The Importance of Water Conservation Protects Water Resources

- Ensures the habitation of fish and wildlife, as well as wetlands. Enough water is needed to prevent irreparable damage to habitats, which could cause devastating ecological consequences.
- Minimizes the pressure to create more dams and reservoirs, which can damage wildlife habitat.
- Reduces discharge of waste water, which may improve water quality.
- Prevents groundwater resources from being withdrawn faster than they can be naturally replenished.

Saves Money

- You spend less money on the actual water used, energy used to heat your hot water, and perhaps your community saves money in the reduction of expenses for treating and delivering water, and removing and treating your wastewater.

Condensed from the National Wildlife Federation's *A Citizen's Guide to Community Water Conservation*

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Simple Ways You Can Conserve

Outdoor Water Use:

- Use a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk instead of a hose.
- Don't let the hose run while washing your car.
- Put a layer of natural mulch around trees and plants to save water. A layer three inches thick is best. (For Moorhead residents, wood chips are provided free of charge at the Moorhead Compost Site on Highway 75 North. Fargo provides free chips as well.)
- Plant trees and shrubs that are drought resistant and need little watering.

Lawn Watering

- If you step on your grass and it springs back up, it does not need to be watered. One inch of watering per week is enough.
- Water your lawn for a longer period of time once a week instead of giving it quick showers every day. This can cause shallow roots.
- To prevent lawn disease, water early in the day.
- Make sure that the water stays mostly on your lawn or garden, not on the sidewalks, driveways, or street.
- Try not to water on windy days.

Indoor Water Use:

Bathroom

75% of the water used in our homes is used in the bathroom

- Adjust your toilet to use less water or put a plastic bottle filled with water and sand in your toilet tanks to save up to one gallon per flush. Make sure they are safely away from operating mechanisms.
- Check for toilet leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in your bowl without flushing, you have a leak to repair.
- Take shorter showers.
- Install a water-saving showerhead.

- Rinse your razor in the sink instead of letting the water run.
- Do not let the water run while brushing your teeth.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip can waste 20 or more gallons a day.

Kitchen and Laundry Room

- Use only full loads in washing machines and dishwashers.
- When washing dishes by hand, use one sink for rinsing instead of running the water or keep the dishes together in a rack and rinse them with a spray device.
- Instead of running tap water to cool it for drinking, put a water pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Recycle water from fish tanks by using it to water plants. It makes a good fertilizer because of its amount of nitrogen and phosphorous.

Adapted from brochures by Moorhead Public Service and American Water Works Association

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