

Water Saving Tips & Ideas

The domestic water supply system of Rocky View Water Co-op was developed and continues to grow as an affordable flow-restricted service for its members in compliance with the licensing and operating authorizations of Alberta Environment.

Performance of our flow-restricted system can be enhanced as follows:

1. By the use of pressure tanks and/or constant pressure systems.
2. By applying the water saving tips and ideas described below.

<i>Kitchen & Laundry</i>	
<i>No Cost or Low Cost Tips</i>	<i>Long Term Investment Ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run dish and clothes washers only when full. - Don't rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher and save up to 75 liters per load. It does not improve cleaning. - Use the rinse and hold feature, which requires only 3 liters. - Wash small numbers of dishes by hand in a sink full of water and spray rinse in a rack. - Wash fresh vegetables and fruits in a bowl full of water not under a running tap. - Use some of your kitchen wastewater on houseplants. - Steam your vegetables. You'll use less water and also retain more vitamins. - Chill drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until it flows cold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure your next dishwasher is a water-saving model to cut water use by up to 50%. - Make sure your next clothes washer is a water-saving model to cut water use by as much as 33%.

<i>Bathroom</i>	
<i>No Cost or Low Cost Tips</i>	<i>Long Term Investment Ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find and fix any toilet leaks. Put food dye in the tank and if it appears in the bowl after a few minutes there is a leak. - Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. - Displace some of the water in toilet tanks with plastic bottles full of water. This is not necessary in low-flow models. - Install early closing flapper valves in older toilets. - Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth and save 2 or more gallons per minute. - Install low-flow shower heads and taps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace older toilets with low-flow models. Most work very well and use less than half the water required by older models. - Insulate your water heater and all hot-water pipes so that you waste less water and time waiting for the hot water to flow.

<i>Garden</i>	
<i>No Cost or Low Cost Tips</i>	<i>Long Term Investment Ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add compost or peat moss to soil to improve its water holding capacity. - Mulch beds to a depth of 2" to 3" to reduce evaporation. - Add polymer crystals to potted plants to improve absorbency. - Choose drought tolerant plants whenever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install a drip irrigation system for flowers and shrubs. - Develop a landscaping plan that uses drought tolerant plants.

<i>Recreation</i>	
<i>No Cost or Low Cost Tips</i>	<i>Long Term Investment Ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a swimming pool cover to reduce evaporation. - Fill your pool a few inches lower than its full capacity. - Avoid water toys that need a constant stream of water. - Use fountains and similar yard ornaments that recycle water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure your next pool filter is one that uses less water. Some new filters waste no water at all.

<i>Lawn, Patio & Driveway</i>	
<i>No Cost or Low Cost Tips</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fix or replace leaky hoses and hose connections. - Outfit all hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles. - Adjust hose attachments and sprinklers to emit large drops rather than fine spray to reduce evaporation. - Use a sprinkler timer to avoid over watering. - Position sprinklers to avoid watering driveways and walkways. - Hand water as much as possible to reduce usage by up to 33%. - Water at the coolest time of day to reduce evaporation. - Do not water when it is windy to reduce evaporation. - Cut grass to not less than 3" high to encourage deep roots, shade the soil and reduce moisture loss. - Sweep rather than hose to clean driveways, walkways and steps. 	