



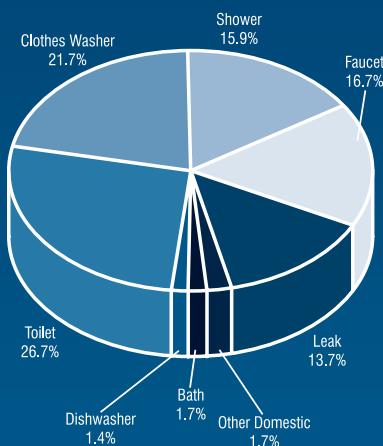
**PEMBINA VALLEY**  
WATER COOPERATIVE INC.

# USING *Water* WISELY

**Here are some facts, tips and suggestions to help you use your water wisely and to save both water and money.**

- A leak of one drop per second wastes 10,000 litres of water per year.
- Fixing a toilet that silently leaks can save you up to 500 gallons of water per day.
- Installing high efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances can help a typical family of four reduce indoor water use by one-third.
- A new Ultra Low Flow toilet uses six litres per flush while the older flush toilets use 18 litres.
- A partially filled tub uses less water than a long shower; a short shower uses less than a full tub.
- Replace your 20 litre per minute shower head with a low flow nine and a half litre per minute shower head and you will use less than half the water.
- Heating water accounts for 19 per cent of home energy use.
- Homes and farms that institute broad water efficiency programs have been able to reduce overall water use by up to 20 per cent, not only conserving water supplies and reducing water pollution but also cutting costs for new water treatment facilities.

## **AVERAGE WATER CONSUMPTION** .....



Home water use varies considerably depending on household size, water use practices, the type of plumbing fixtures and appliances and other factors. The two largest water users are toilets and clothes washers. Note that nearly 14 per cent of the water the typical homeowner pays for is never used. It leaks down the drain, wasting a precious resource and adding stress to your sewage system.



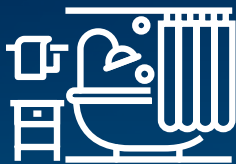
## **TOP 5 WAYS TO SAVE**

- 1.** Stop leaks. Check all water using appliances, equipment and other devices for leaks.
- 2.** Toilets are the biggest user of water in your home. Reduce unnecessary flushes and replace the toilet with an ultra low flow toilet when possible.
- 3.** Washers are the second largest water user in your home. If your clothes washer is getting older you should consider purchasing a model that provides you with both energy savings and reduces your water usage by 35 to 50 per cent.
- 4.** Change the shower heads. It is a simple and inexpensive measure that can generate real savings.
- 5.** Help your water supply system manage morning and supper hour peak demands every day, but especially in the spring and summer months — avoid increases in the cost of your water.



## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

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### In the bathroom...

- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing.
- Before pouring water down the drain, consider other uses for it, such as watering a plant or garden.



### In the laundry...

- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Wash full loads whenever possible.



### Outdoors...

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing them off.
- Wash the car from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- Avoid purchasing water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- If you have one, lower the water level in your pool to reduce the amount of water splashed out.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when the pool is not in use.



### In the kitchen...

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
  - Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin.
  - Use a vegetable brush to clean produce.
  - Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw them in the refrigerator overnight.
  - Use a dishpan for washing and rinsing dishes.
  - Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal and running water.
  - Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
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