



Since 1992

505•808•4343 800•944•9372 www.hydratechnm.org

## Conserving Our New Mexico Water

### Saving Water Indoors

#### Saving Water in the Bathroom

- **Check faucets, pipes, and toilets for leaks.**  
A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet wastes up to 15 gallons of water per day, 100 gallons a week, 6,000 gallons a year. Check your flapper periodically to make sure it's a tight fit.
- **Install a hot water circulation pump.**  
Waiting for hot water wastes 30 to 40 gallons per day, 12,000 to 15,000 gallons per year.
- **Install water saving shower heads.**  
Low-flow shower heads produce 2.5 gallons of water per minute. Older heads use up to 7 gallons per minute.
- **Take shorter showers.**  
Taking shorter showers or taking a bath saves thousands of gallons of water per year.
- **Install a 1.6 gallon low-flow toilet.**  
Low-flow toilets use 1.6 gallons of water per flush. This could cut indoor water use by up to 20% saving thousands of gallons per year. Older toilets use 5 to 7 gallons per flush.
- **Check for toilet leaks.**  
Check for toilet leaks every year. Remove toilet tank cover and add 8 drops of food coloring into the tank. After 15 minutes, check for color in the bowl. Repair immediately.
- **Install low-flow faucet aerators.**  
Older faucets use between 5 to 7 gallons per minute. Low-flow faucet aerators use up to 1.5 gallons of water per minute saving thousands of gallons per year.
- **Fix leaky faucets.**  
Small faucet leaks can waste 20 gallons of water a day, 7,000 per year. Large leaks can waste hundreds of gallons per day.
- **Turn off the water while shaving and brushing teeth.**  
Save 3 to 7 gallons per minute by turning off the water while brushing, shaving and washing.

#### Saving Water in the Kitchen and Laundry Room

- **Rinse efficiently. Use the stopper.**  
Running your faucet wastes 3 to 7 gallons of water per minute. Before rinsing, put the sink stopper in place. Don't continuously run the water. Or use the dishwasher instead.
- **Fill your dishwasher.**  
Dishwashers use the same quantity of water whether full or half full. Use the water saver economy cycle.
- **Keep drinking water in your refrigerator.**  
If you drink tap water don't run faucet to clear stagnant water. Keep drinking water in a pitcher or fridge.
- **Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave.**  
When defrosting food thaw it in the refrigerator, microwave or bowl of warm water, not under running water.
- **Select appropriate water level for laundry. Use soft water.**  
Select the proper water level for each load. Front load washing machines use 1/3 less water than top loading machines, use less energy and clean clothes better. Soft water saves water, soaps and cleaning products, plumbing and appliances repairs, reduces detergent phosphates in the environment and makes washables last longer.



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### Saving Water Outdoors

- **Plant desert adapted trees, shrubs and plants.**  
It's natural and attractive. If you use turf select turf grasses with low water needs.
- **Invest in an automatic irrigation system.**  
If you don't have an automatic sprinkler system use a kitchen timer so you won't forget to turn off the water. Outdoor faucets can flow at 300 gallons per hour and waste huge amounts of water quickly.
- **Collect rain water.**  
1,000 square feet of roof or pavement can collect 400 gallons of water from 1 inch of rain. Store collected water in a cistern, siphon it off to water your garden and wash your car. A plastic or metal trash can is easily converted to a cistern by attaching a spigot and hose.
- **Water the lawn only when needed, two to three times a week maximum.**  
Step on the grass. If it springs back it does not need water.
- **Don't waste water in hot sun or wind.**  
Sun and wind cause water to evaporate quickly wasting large amounts of water.
- **Invest in a drip irrigation system.**  
Drip systems encourage strong plant root systems and reduce evaporation thus saving water.
- **Keep lawn and garden free of weeds.**  
Weeds waste water and compete with plants for vital nutrients.
- **Don't over mow.**  
Mowing stresses the grass which then requires more water.
- **Set your mower high.**  
Don't mow more than 1/3 of the blade in one mowing. Return clippings to the lawn.
- **Don't clean driveway and walks with water.**  
Use a broom.
- **Turn off the water when washing the car.**  
Hose down the car, then turn off the water. Turn on again for final rinse.
- **Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, and faucets.**  
Repair or replace leaky equipment.
- **Cover your swimming pool.**  
This reduces evaporation. An uncovered average sized pool can waste 1,000 gallons of water per month. A pool cover can cut this loss by up to 90%.
- **Use hose shut-off nozzles.**  
Shut-off nozzles save water when you are not using the hose.