

Indoor Water Conservation

Overview

You can reduce your water consumption by 20-40 percent without purchasing expensive equipment. Reducing water use can mean substantial savings on water, sewage, and energy bills. This is a big benefit to the Highline Club since the Association (you) pays for both water and sewage. Water conservation is an important issue for the Association—and not just because we want to be environmentally responsible. Here's how you can help:

Running Hot and Cold

- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator for cold drinks (but don't leave the refrigerator door open while getting a drink). If you have to run your tap while waiting for cold water, collect running water in a pitcher for later use.
- Avoid running hot tap water over frozen food to defrost it; put the food in the refrigerator the night before.

"Used" Water

- Before pouring that half-filled glass of water down the sink, ask yourself where it could be put to good use? How about pouring it in the dog's bowl? And the condensate from the dehumidifier is suitable for watering plants. Other sources of "used" water are suitable for reuse—it just takes a little imagination and a change in routine.

Large appliances

Washing machines and dishwashers consume the most water, so they are important places to start any water-conservation efforts.

- Set the water level on your washing machine to match the size of your load. Try to avoid doing frequent small loads; whenever possible, run the machine only when you have a full load.
- You don't need to rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher! No, really. Hand rinsing dishes under the faucet uses 15-18 gallons of water per load. If your dishwasher has a pre-rinse cycle, try using it instead of hand rinsing. If a dish or two isn't completely clean after the dishwasher cycle, finish the job by hand.
- Like the washing machine, only run the dishwasher when it's full. If you have only a few dishes, wash them by hand in a sink or basin—not under a running faucet. Use a second basin or dishpan for rinsing, or spray rinse all the soapy dishes at once.

Kitchen

- Avoid the garbage disposal. It uses a lot of unnecessary water.
- When washing dishes in the sink, use one side of the sink or a large bowl for rinsing, rather than running water.
- Rethink any tasks you usually perform under running water—like washing vegetables. (A gallon of water a minute flows through a tap that's only half open.) Use a dishpan or bowl of water instead of letting the tap run. Then pour the water from the bowl on your house plants, or in the summer on your outside plants.

Splish-Splash—Conserving in the Bath

- Conventional toilets use about five to seven gallons of water per flush. When replacing toilets, install low water use fixtures. Some people use plastic jugs to displace the water in the tank. This procedure gets mixed reviews, so you will need to judge for yourself if this is appropriate for you.
- Make sure your toilets are all working efficiently. According to the American Water Works Association, the average American home loses 14 percent of all water used to leaks. (And, remember, the toilet is not a waste basket.)
- Install a low-flow aerator on your showerhead and sink. These devices can be purchased at a hardware store and are easy to install. They reduce flow to approximately three gallons per minute instead of the usual five to 10 in a shower and most people don't notice a difference.
- Keep your showers as brief as possible or turn the water off while shaving or scrubbing in the stall.
- When taking a bath, close the drain while the water warms up then adjust the temperature. Monitor the tub as it fills, and turn the water off at the half-way mark.
- Turn off tap water while brushing your teeth or shaving.

Water conservation begins with each of us. If each resident makes a few simple adjustments in household routine, the Association can conserve thousands of gallons of water and potentially save thousands of dollars each year. Remember, when you use less water, you are also using less energy, leading to even greater savings. Visit www.auduboninternational.org for more conservation tips.

In addition, there are leak detection kits in the Clubhouse for anyone that wants one.

REMINDER: You must submit an Architectural Control or a Landscape application to the management company prior to beginning any work you plan to do on the exterior areas of your property. You must receive in writing approval from the Board for any exterior work. The application must be completed and submitted to the management company two (2) weeks prior to the board meeting at which approval is requested.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Toni Larson, President (Unit #9) • John Winston, Vice President (Unit #38) • Nils Holtestaul, Secretary (Unit #27) • Mark Foster, Treasurer (Unit #45) • Bruce Jensen, At Large (Unit #3).

Documents and applications are available at www.weststarmanagement.com