

BEST PRACTICES



Conserving Water: Conserves Your Cash!

The clouds have finally cleared, the sun is shining, and the nostalgic smell of backyard barbecues fill the air. Yes, it's summer time once again! There's a lot to remember during this time of year: how often to apply sunscreen, where this year's family vacation will be, and which exciting Stream Team events to attend—just to name a few.

During the hustle and bustle of summer time, it can be easy to forget about water use. With rising temperatures comes an increase in water use, (almost three times higher in summer compared to winter) and a need for conservation. Here are some quick and easy tips for conserving water, both indoors and outdoors:

Save Water & Save Green!

Indoors

- Consider using an Energy Star dishwasher over washing dishes by hand. Remember to run dishwashers only when they are full.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use—it could mean! Check all faucets, showers, tubs, and toilets.
- Try the water meter test to check for leaks: First, make sure all indoor and outdoor water is shut off, then record the reading of your water meter. Wait 15 minutes, and take a second reading of your meter. If the reading has changed, you might have a leak!
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost it in the refrigerator.
- If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace with a low-flow shower head.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave, and save up to 4 gallons a minute.

Outdoors

- Check to see if your water provider has an outdoor watering schedule.
- Be a leak detective! Check all irrigation systems, garden hoses/nozzles and water features for leaks.
- Pick the right outdoor plants! Choose plants that are native to Western Washington or are water wise.
- Install drip irrigation in any planting beds that require irrigation.
- It helps to retain soil moisture and block thirsty weeds.
- Use hose nozzles to control the flow of water through your hoses.
- Adjust sprinklers and hoses so that driveways, sidewalks and streets don't get watered.
- Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.



Utility Provider	Who is Eligible?	Incentives & Rebates
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	LOTT Clean Water Alliance Sewer Customer (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Unincorporated Thurston County)	\$50 rebate for Energy Star certified washing machine Up to \$100 for a water-efficient toilet For more info., go to http://www.lottcleanwater.org/rebates.htm
Lacey, Olympia & Tumwater	Water Customers with On-Site Septic Systems	High efficiency toilets and/or washing machines See contact information below.
Olympia & Tumwater	Water Customers	Rain barrel rebates (max. amount and number varies by jurisdiction)
Lacey, Olympia & Tumwater	Water Customers	Outdoor Water Saving Kits, Indoor Water Saving Kit, and/or “Smart” irrigation controller rebates up to \$200
Puget Sound Electric	Current PSE Residential Electric or Natural Gas Customer	Instant discounts up to \$10 off WaterSense® showerheads, faucets, and faucet aerators at some local hardware stores. Look for the PSE logo on the items listed above to find instant discounts. For more info, go to https://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/Rebates/Pages/Water-savings.aspx

For more information about indoor or outdoor water conservation programs listed above that are offered by the Cities of Lacey, Olympia or Tumwater go to:

Lacey: www.ci.lacey.wa.us/water-conservation

Olympia: <http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/drinking-water/conservation.aspx>

Tumwater: <http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/public-works/utilities/water-conservation>

Source: Stream Team News, Spring 2011