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Spirit Lake Utilities
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Conserving water is one of the smartest investments your family can make. When you conserve water, you will help to ensure that Spirit Lake Utilities maintains an abundant supply of safe drinking water. Plus, you'll save money!

Spirit Lake Utilities is providing this Water Wiser conservation flyer to help Spirit Lake citizens take charge of their water usage. The tips provided on this sheet will help you lower your water consumption and help Spirit Lake Utilities maintain adequate supplies for all our users.



Saving Water Outdoors

Much of Spirit Lake increase in water usage over the past 10 years has been in outdoor usage. While this includes commercial uses such as car washes and other industries, the largest outdoor usage overall is lawn irrigation. Although maintaining a green lawn is a point of pride for many homeowners, keeping the grass green doesn't have to mean spending as much green on your water bill. Here are some tips for conserving water outdoors:

1. Don't over water your lawn. One inch of water per week in the summer will keep most common grasses healthy. In fact, if you pamper your lawn too much by over watering, the turf will never develop the kind of deep root system needed to keep it healthy long-term.
2. Automatic sprinkler systems are great, but they can sometimes waste a great deal of water if not used and maintained properly. Make sure the system is set to water only when needed. For example, turn the system off after a good rainfall so you're not duplicating what Mother Nature has already provided. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Adjust sprinkler heads to avoid unnecessary over spray on sidewalks or driveways.

3. Whenever possible, water during the early morning hours, before the sun is high in the sky. This will allow time for the water to soak into your lawn before the midday sun evaporates it. Also, avoid watering on windy days.

Strong winds wastewater by blowing water where its not needed and by speeding up evaporation.

4. Don't "scalp" your lawn. By keeping your lawn 3 inches or taller during the summer, you will help the lawn hold in more moisture. Also, try not to cut more than 1/3 of the lawn's length at one time.

5. Don't clean your sidewalks or patios with a hose...use a large broom to sweep away dirt and debris.

6. Use lots of mulch around your plants and shrubs to retain moisture.

7. If you wash your own vehicles, use a bucket of soapy water to wash and only use the hose for rinsing. Keep the water turned off until you need it.

Saving Water Indoors

In The Bathroom

1. Take a shower instead of a bath.

2. Keep your showers short.

3. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow model that uses 2 gallons per minute.

4. Replace your old toilet with a more water efficient one. This can save as much as 5 gallons per flush. You can also use less per flush by installing a water displacement device. One do-it-yourself method is to fill a plastic gallon milk container with water and set it inside your tank. That will reduce your flush by one gallon.

5. Watch carefully for dripping or leaky faucets. A small drip can waste a large amount of water over time.

6. Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth. Keep it shut off until its time to rinse.

7. Don't leave the water running while shaving. Fill the sink partially with hot water to rinse the razor instead of rinsing it in the stream. For the same reason, don't shave in the shower...every minute you spend shaving is wasting several gallons of water.

8. Use the toilet for what it is intended, not as a trash disposal. Use a trash can for facial tissues or other items.

In The Kitchen

1. Always operate your dishwasher with a full load. This saves water, energy, detergent, and money.

2. Consider purchasing a more efficient Energy dishwasher.

3. Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Dry scrape the food remnants into a trash can instead.

4. Don't leave the water running when you aren't using it.

5. Install faucet aerators. The difference in flow is hardly noticeable, and you'll cut your kitchen sink water consumption in half!

6. Rather than run water from the tap until it is cold, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking.

7. Using a garbage disposal can waste water unnecessarily. Use them only for really messy stuff. Use the garbage for everything else (egg shells, potato peels, etc.).

8. Rinse your vegetables in a pan of cold water rather than under a running faucet.

In The Laundry Room

1. Wash only when you have a full load. If you must wash a partial load, use the load setting with the correct amount of laundry to be washed.
2. Buy an Energy Star- rated clothes washer. Energy Star washer save energy, water and money in several ways. First of all, they use up to 40% less water than conventional washers. During the spin cycle they extract more water, meaning less time in the dryer. They use less detergent than regular models, and they also are gentler on your clothes.

Saving water in your home helps the family budget, and helps Spirit Lake Utilities maintain an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water for the community.