

MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

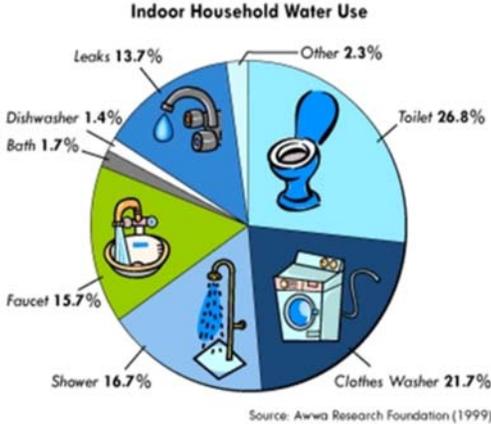


BOARD OF SELECTMEN · TOWN HALL
MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MASSACHUSETTS 01944-1399
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Thank you for your help as a Manchester-by-the-Sea water customer for your water conservation efforts during last year's drought. The response to the water ban was a dramatic reduction of consumption in a very short time. This preserved the capacity of our water sources to meet drinking water and firefighting needs.

Manchester by the Sea
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, 10 Central Street
Manchester by the Sea MA 01944

Less than 1% of all the water on Earth is available for human consumption. The rest is either salt water, fresh water frozen in the polar ice caps, or too inaccessible for practical use. While population and demand on freshwater resources are increasing, supply will always remain constant. The water cycle continuously returns water to Earth, but it is not always returned to the same place, or the same quality or quantity. The average American uses over 80 gallons of water a day, and clean drinking water is becoming a vanishing resource. Conserving water can help maintain our water sources and save money on your water bill.



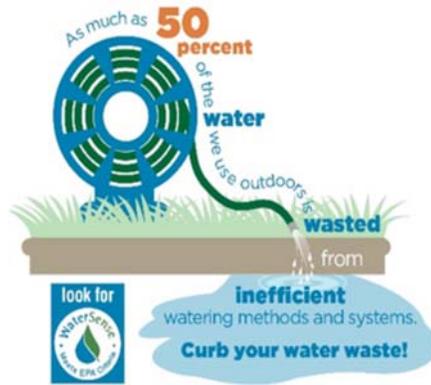
Here are some ways to conserve our water supply and save money on your water bill:

OUTDOORS:

Car washing: Wash your car in sections and rinse with short spurts of the hose. Try to wash cars near plants to allow the overflow to benefit the greenery. If you need to wash frequently, go to a car wash that recycles water.

Planting: Select native species that do not need as much water. Mulch heavily. Let grass grow higher in dry weather.

Pool: Cover if not in use, avoid overfilling.



Watering

Water slowly and as infrequently as possible. Water at night or early in the morning, preferably between 7 pm to 8 am. Keep a close watch on wind shifts while using sprinklers. Inspect lawn irrigation systems annually to prevent misaligned heads from wasting water. Consider installing a drip irrigation system, using a weather based controller instead of a clock based timer. Try using a rain barrel as a source of irrigation water.

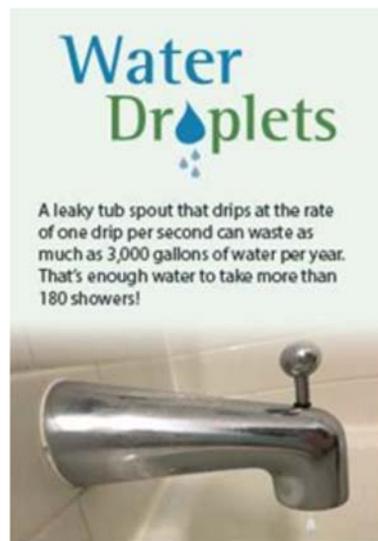


IN THE BATHROOM:

Bathtub/Shower: A full tub can hold 50+ gallons of water, so do not overfill and try to use less than half. Turn off water while lathering and try to shower for less than 5 minutes with a light spray. Check faucets for leaks and replace faulty fixtures.

Toilet: Do not flush to dispose of trash. Consider upgrading your toilet to a WaterSense (EPA program) labeled model which uses less water when flushing. Displace water in the tank to save water by using plastic bottles or bags filled with water and weighted with pebbles. Check for leaks by listening for running water or adding food coloring to the tank. A leak is present if the coloring appears in the toilet bowl within 10 minutes without flushing-be sure to flush immediately after to avoid stains!

Sink: Clean shaving razors and toothbrushes with an occasional burst of water rather than keeping the water running. Check faucets for leaks and replace faulty fixtures.



IN THE KITCHEN:

Garbage Disposals: Use sparingly. Use the curbside food scrap collection program to minimize water use and convert your food scraps waste into compost.

Washing fruits & vegetables: Use a vegetable brush. Spray sparingly with a short burst of water.

Defrosting foods: Plan ahead to thaw frozen foods naturally without using water.

Washing dishes: Pre-clean dishes by wiping them with paper napkins from your meals. Add the soiled paper napkins to your food scrap collection bin. Rinse everything all at once. Use a dishwasher for full loads only.

Drinking water: Store water in the refrigerator or use ice cubes to get your water cold. Avoid running water at the tap to get cold water. Recycle any unused drinking water for other purposes.

REPLACING FAUCETS AND AERATORS



AROUND THE HOUSE:

Cleaning: Use recycled water for cleaning. Use new water only when necessary.

Pipes: Insulate hot water pipes to avoid waiting for hot water at the tap. Save any water you run waiting for the hot water for other uses. Inspect water pipes for leaks. A pinhole leak can waste up to 170 gallons of water a day.

Washing machines: Select minimal water use, or only wash full loads. Use cold water to save energy and money.

CRACK DOWN ON WATER LEAKS WASTING WATER AND YOUR MONEY

In about 10 minutes you can search for leaks in your home. Follow these tips:



If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month during a colder month, there are serious leaks.

Check your water meter before and after 2 hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.

Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.

Check your irrigation system each spring to be sure it wasn't damaged by frost or freezing, and check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot.

Nationwide, household leaks waste 1 trillion gallons of water annually, which is equal to the water use of more than 1 million homes!