

# Use Water Wisely

Do your part to protect one of our *most valuable* resources.

## Indoor Uses

### Drinking Water

Keep a jug of water in your refrigerator. This way, you won't be running the tap to get a cold drink.

### Don't Let Any Get Away

Replace worn out washers. Fix that nagging drip!  
Repair toilets that run constantly.

Here's how to find water leaks that you can't see.

Read the water meter. Don't use any water for a short period of time, then read the meter again. A change in the reading means you have a leak. You can also check your leak detector on your water meter. Look for the red triangle (on most water meters.) The water pressure causes the triangle to turn.



### Water Heaters and Pipes

Water heaters should be near bathroom, laundry and kitchen areas. Shorter pipes reduce heat loss as water travels from the hot water tank to the taps.

Wrap insulation around any long pipes that carry hot water.



### Water for Cleaning

Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full when bathing.

Use only what's needed. Don't leave water running when you brush your teeth, wash your hands, clean vegetables or scrape off dishes.

Don't use the toilet to flush away tissues or other scraps. It's not a trash can and each flush uses water.

Wash only full loads of laundry, whenever possible. For small loads, adjust the water level of your washer to the lowest setting.

When you can, use cold water. Cold water is actually easier on synthetics and delicate fabrics.

Stock pile clothes that need hand washing and do them all at once.

### Think Efficiency

Buy water treatment systems that are water efficient.

For questions about your water/wastewater bill, please contact Greater Sudbury Utilities at 675-2799 or visit [www.sudburyhydro.com](http://www.sudburyhydro.com)

## Outdoor Uses

### Grass and Garden

Your soil needs less water if leaves, compost, grass or hedge trimmings are mixed in. Grasscycle and you'll see the difference.

Choose trees, plants and grasses that need less water and live longer than one year.

Mulch around trees and bushes keeps moisture around the roots. It also prevents weeds. Use wet straw and leaves.

Design your yard with less grass. Use patio stones, gravel or wood chips.

Water your lawn about one inch per week. And don't over water. Measure the amount of water used with an empty can set near the sprinkler. Use an automatic timer to avoid puddles and run off. Hold off watering your lawn if it has rained during the week. Rain is free, so give your water bill a break!

### Cleaning

Sweep off your driveway, patio and sidewalk with a broom instead of using a hose.

When washing the car, wash dirt off with a pail of soapy water. Rinse using a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

Wash your car near hedges, shrubs or grass so water is not wasted.

Collect rainwater in a barrel or large container and use it on your plants. It's actually better for your plants because it's at air temperature.

Don't apply fertilizer (nitrogen) in the summer. New growth requires more water.

Choose sprinklers with coarse sprays instead of fine mists which evaporate faster.

Water your lawn and garden early in the morning or late in the evening. This prevents evaporation. And remember to water on your day only. For even numbered houses, water on even numbered days.

Position the sprinkler to water the grass and garden only. Don't waste water on sidewalks and driveways!

Don't cut grass too short. Cut it higher to reduce evaporation. Raise the blade level of your lawn mower to at least six centimetres and never remove more than one third of the height of your grass.

### Recreation

To cut down on water loss from splashing, don't overfill your pool. A swimming pool cover will prevent evaporation and debris build-up while keeping the heat in.

