



Our Mission: To provide the latest information, education, and technical assistance to protect our public waters and improve the quality of life in Minnesota.

Excellence in Training and Technical Assistance

MRWA Water Conservation Facts

Water Conservation

The U.S. has a supply of fresh water equal to 600 billion gallons of water a day. This is equal to 3% of the world's total. Canada and the Russia have 20% each.

Daily usage of water in the United States:

- 1960 - 270 billion gallons per day
- 1970 - 370 billion gallons per day
- 1985 - 422 billion gallons per day

Even if water usage does not approach total supply, much of the water isn't where it is needed. For example, in Louisville, Kentucky, the ground water table has risen 32 feet in past years, leaving basements flooded. But in some areas of Arizona, the water tables have dropped 400 to 450 feet.

Where does all the water go? Consider these statistics: (Industrial)

- 30,000 gallons of water to produce one ton of steel
- 200 gallons to make one pound of synthetic rubber
- 184,000 gallons for a ton of high quality book paper
- 1 gallon to brew a pint of beer

The average daily water usage in the U.S. breaks down as follows:

- 4,000 gallons to raise one pound of beef
- 1,300 gallons to grow one pound of cotton
- 500 gallons to grow one pound of rice

Therefore, daily water usage in the U.S. breaks down as follows:

- 47% agriculture
- 43% industry
- 9% physical and domestic uses (toilets, baths, drinking and watering lawns).

Consumption of water is more critical than the total quantity of water used, because it is water that is not available for other uses. Generation of hydroelectric power is nonconsumptive since water that turns turbines almost immediately returns to the river. Agriculture, on the other hand, is responsible for 83% of the total water "consumed"

100 years ago a barrel of water cost more than a barrel of oil in some places. With water as with oil, conservation is the cheapest and best answer.

Don't let your toilet waste water

A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of high quality water each year and place unnecessary demands on your sewer system or septic tank.

- Usually you cannot hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank.
- A leaking toilet is a sad toilet!

How can you discover if your toilet leaks?

Simple. Follow these easy steps and you'll know.

1. Lift off the lid from your toilet seat.
2. Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank (note - do not use dye - it could stain).
3. Do not flush or otherwise disturb the toilet for one or two hours or longer. D.) At the end of the waiting period, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.

How do you fix a leaking toilet?

- Most frequently, leaks in toilets are caused by a defective flush valve. A flush valve is a flap or ball plunger device that is supposed to act as a stopper in the bottom of your toilet tank. After several years and many flushings, the stopper can be knocked out of shape or simply worn out.
- To make your toilet happy and to save water, see your hardware dealer or plumber and obtain an inexpensive and easy to install replacement valve or complete replacement kit.

USE WATER WISELY! !



Minnesota Rural Water Association
217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Ph: 800-367-6792 * Fax: 218-685-5272
E-mail: mrwa@mrwa.com * Web: www.mrwa.com

