



## CONSERVING WATER...

### **Saves Money**

In Oshkosh, a portion of the water and sewer utility bill is based on water usage. By implementing several simple water conservation steps and ensuring that your home or business is free from leaks, you can save money on your annual expenses for these utilities.

### **Saves Energy**

The city uses energy to pump, treat, and distribute water. By conserving water, you are helping to sustain our natural resources.

### **Ensures the Future**

Although Winnebago County is currently a water-rich area, we need to use water wisely and responsibly to ensure that future generations will be able to experience and enjoy the same quality of water as the current generation.

*Conserving Water Is The Right Thing To Do. Please Do Your Part!*



*Sponsored by:*

City of Oshkosh  
215 Church Avenue, PO Box 1130  
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[www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us](http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us)

City of Oshkosh  
Sustainability Board  
[www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/SustainableOshkosh](http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/SustainableOshkosh)

### **What We Are Doing**

The City of Oshkosh believes using water wisely and responsibly is a key component of sustainability. The city strongly encourages checking for and fixing leaks communitywide to conserve and protect the water supply. The city is currently working to improve the efficiency of water facilities in city buildings to reduce use and protect the water supply.

***For additional conservation information, please visit:***

- EPA WaterSense  
[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)
- UW Extension Water Resources Education  
<http://clean-water.uwex.edu>
- Water - Use It Wisely  
[www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)



# Using Water Wisely and Responsibly

*Water Conservation Makes Sense!*

## What You Can Do to Help Conserve Water...

**Repair Leaks** – Leaks waste water and money! For more information on detecting leaks, please visit: [www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Finance/Utility\\_Billing/ways\\_to\\_detect\\_water\\_leak.asp](http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Finance/Utility_Billing/ways_to_detect_water_leak.asp).

### Practice Outdoor Conservation -

Learn about sprinkling and lawn care tips, including how much water your grass and gardens need. Look into rain harvesting and rain gardens, and find out what you can do to conserve water in pools, spas, and car washing. Also, consider using native plants that require less watering.

**Install Aerators / Low-Flow Showerheads / Toilet Displacement Devices** - For about \$35, the average homeowner can install these items to help save water and reduce utility bills.

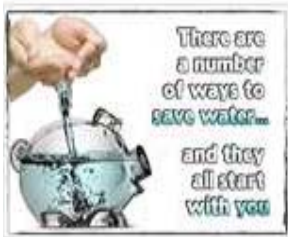
### Purchase High Efficiency Dishwashers and Washing Machines and Low-Flow Toilets -

Look for opportunities (remodeling, replacing old appliances, or buying appliances for the first time) to invest in high-efficiency appliances that use less water and save you money on utility bills.

### Develop and Practice Daily Conservation Habits –

Follow the simple and easy tips in this brochure to conserve water and lower your utility bills.

**Remember, every little bit helps!**



## Tips to Use Water Wisely and Responsibly Inside and Outside of Your Home or Business

### In the Bathroom

- Keep shower times to less than five minutes.
- Use a wastebasket instead of the toilet to dispose of garbage.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and shave.

### In the Laundry Room

- Run the washing machine with a full load.
- Adjust the water level based on the size of the load.

### In the Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher with a full load.
- Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of using running water to do so.

### Outdoors

- Raise your mower blade to 3 inches and leave grass clippings on the lawn to keep the lawn healthier and require less mowing.
- Water your garden and lawn only when needed and only during cooler parts of the day to achieve maximum effectiveness and ensure water does not evaporate before being absorbed into the lawn.
- Make sure the sprinkler is only covering the lawn or garden, not the sidewalks, driveways, and gutters.
- Collect and use rainwater to water plants.
- Use a broom rather than the hose to clean off driveways and sidewalks.

### In General

- Check for drips and leaks regularly, and fix promptly. For assistance with fixing leaks: [www.epa.gov/watersense/water\\_efficiency/howto.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/howto.html).



### Analysis of Daily Water Use (Gallons Used) For a Typical Family of Four

	No Conservation Measures In Place	After Implementing Conservation Measures
Toilets	74.0	32.8
Clothes Washers	60.0	40.0
Showers	46.4	35.2
Faucets	43.6	43.2
Leaks	38.0	16.0
Baths	4.8	4.8
Dishwashers	4.0	2.8
Other Domestic	6.4	6.4
Total Water Used	277.2	181.2
<i>Water Saved Daily</i>		96.0 Gallons
<b>Water/Money Saved Annually</b>	<b>Per 2010 Rates</b>	<b>35,040 Gallons</b>
		<b>\$151.30</b>

The amount you save could be more or less, depending on your personal conservation habits. To determine your household water use, please visit:

[www.waterbudgets.com/ConserVision/ CUWCC/DataInput.htm](http://www.waterbudgets.com/ConserVision/ CUWCC/DataInput.htm).