



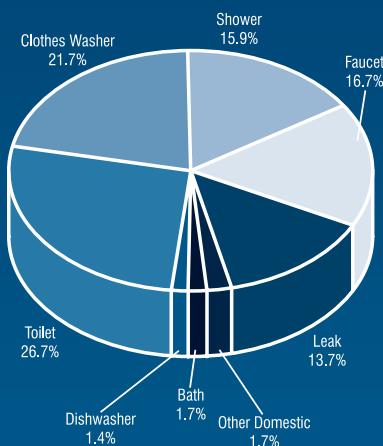
**PEMBINA VALLEY**  
WATER COOPERATIVE INC.

# USING *Water* WISELY

**Here are some facts, tips and suggestions to help you use your water wisely and to save both water and money.**

- A leak of one drop per second wastes 10,000 litres of water per year.
- Fixing a toilet that silently leaks can save you up to 500 gallons of water per day.
- Installing high efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances can help a typical family of four reduce indoor water use by one-third.
- A new Ultra Low Flow toilet uses six litres per flush while the older flush toilets use 18 litres.
- A partially filled tub uses less water than a long shower; a short shower uses less than a full tub.
- Replace your 20 litre per minute shower head with a low flow nine and a half litre per minute shower head and you will use less than half the water.
- Heating water accounts for 19 per cent of home energy use.
- Homes and farms that institute broad water efficiency programs have been able to reduce overall water use by up to 20 per cent, not only conserving water supplies and reducing water pollution but also cutting costs for new water treatment facilities.

## **AVERAGE WATER CONSUMPTION** .....



Home water use varies considerably depending on household size, water use practices, the type of plumbing fixtures and appliances and other factors. The two largest water users are toilets and clothes washers. Note that nearly 14 per cent of the water the typical homeowner pays for is never used. It leaks down the drain, wasting a precious resource and adding stress to your sewage system.

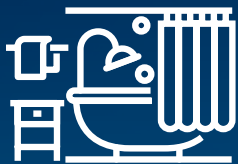
## **TOP 5 WAYS TO SAVE**

- 1.** Stop leaks. Check all water using appliances, equipment and other devices for leaks.
- 2.** Toilets are the biggest user of water in your home. Reduce unnecessary flushes and replace the toilet with an ultra low flow toilet when possible.
- 3.** Washers are the second largest water user in your home. If your clothes washer is getting older you should consider purchasing a model that provides you with both energy savings and reduces your water usage by 35 to 50 per cent.
- 4.** Change the shower heads. It is a simple and inexpensive measure that can generate real savings.
- 5.** Help your water supply system manage morning and supper hour peak demands every day, but especially in the spring and summer months — avoid increases in the cost of your water.



## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

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### In the bathroom...

- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing.
- Before pouring water down the drain, consider other uses for it, such as watering a plant or garden.



### In the laundry...

- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Wash full loads whenever possible.



### Outdoors...

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing them off.
- Wash the car from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- Avoid purchasing water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- If you have one, lower the water level in your pool to reduce the amount of water splashed out.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when the pool is not in use.



### In the kitchen...

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
  - Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin.
  - Use a vegetable brush to clean produce.
  - Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw them in the refrigerator overnight.
  - Use a dishpan for washing and rinsing dishes.
  - Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal and running water.
  - Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
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## **USING WATER WISELY RURALLY**

### *On The Farm & In Your Home* .....

In many parts of rural Canada, dependable, good quality water supplies have not always been available. Not only has this curtailed some of the agricultural diversification initiatives that otherwise could have been possible, it has also posed many challenges to the rural homemaker and had a negative impact on the quality of rural life.

The good news is that in your area this is no longer the case. Rural water pipelines now provide you with potable water meeting all the Canadian drinking water standards. And this dependable supply is there for both household and on farm use.

Historically, rural Canadians have been much more conservative in water use than their urban counter-parts – they had to be. However, once you have a dependable plentiful supply, habits change and we too have to be reminded about water conservation in our homes and on the farm.

Most rural water supply systems are designed to provide for your average daily needs. To meet those peak demands in spring and summer is a very real challenge. To design and build a system that will always do this is not affordable nor is it an efficient use of scarce dollars and water resources. So, during periods of peak demand in spring and summer you'll have to recall those serious water conservation methods you used when you had no other choice. If we exercise care and caution there should always be enough water to go around.

## **Important Information On Water Use In Your Farming Operation**

- Using clean treated water in your field sprayer is a big help but if we all decide to do this on the same morning and turn on the tap to fill the tank while everyone else is making breakfast and showering, your water supply system will have serious difficulty meeting the demand.
    - » Fill your tank from the hose overnight
    - » You can make or purchase a float control that will turn off the water when your tank is full
    - » You'll help to take a lot of pressure off the rural system and be ready to go to the field earlier
  - Spraying season is the most difficult season for rural water systems. The big demand means treatment plants are running at maximum capacity. Good on farm water conservation and management is absolutely critical if your water supply system is to keep up with the water that you and your neighbours need.
  - Livestock operations that use treated water should always operate from their own reservoir.
    - » You should fill the reservoir over a 24 hour period and re-pressurize to meet your barns requirements
  - You need a minimum 24 hour back-up water supply in case your municipal system has a breakdown
    - » By filling to a reservoir you help to reduce peak demands and save dollars
  - Make sure hoses and piping on your farm do not leak.
    - » Use the most water efficient system for washing barns
    - » Make sure your pressure washer is both energy and water efficient
    - » Wash equipment in barns sparingly and at times of the day or night that will not affect peak demand
- Your municipal water utility, your supplier of treated water, cannot afford to build a system that will always meet peak demands and as the end users, farmers cannot afford the cost of such a system either. To avoid escalating costs it is critical that on farm water use be managed in a timely and efficient way.
- Common sense will assure that your water supply will be there for you in the future at a cost that we can all afford.