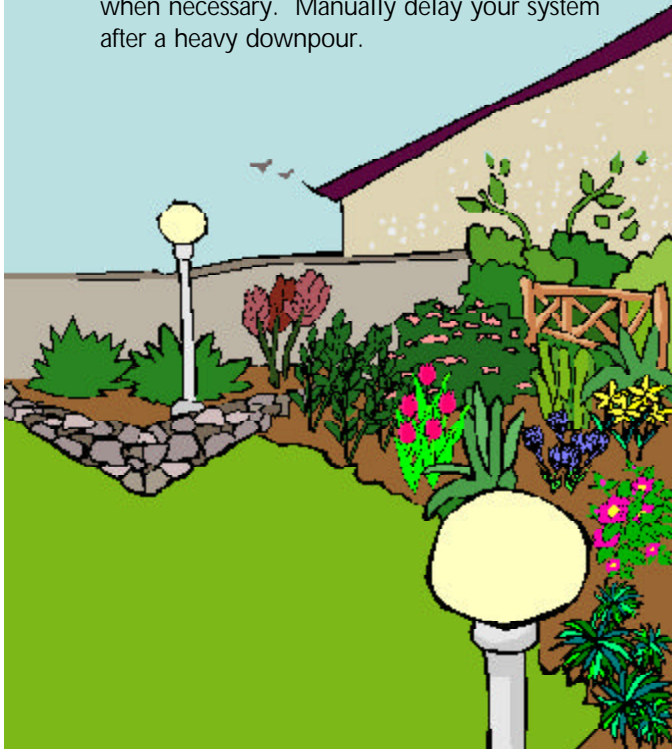


## Irrigation

- Make sure your sprinklers are not watering the street, driveway or sidewalk.
- If you have an automatic irrigation system, set your rain sensor to override your system after 1/4 inch of rain has fallen.
- Adjust the sprinkler system timer to only water when necessary. Manually delay your system after a heavy downpour.



## Water Saving Tips

### Indoor

- ◆ Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.
- ◆ Do not let the water run while brushing teeth, shaving and washing dishes.
- ◆ Take five minute showers, or if you prefer baths, fill the tub only 1/3 full of water.
- ◆ Do not use toilet as wastebasket. Dispose of insects and tissues in trashcan.
- ◆ Reuse water from the tub and sink for watering plants.

### Outdoor

- ◆ When watering your lawn, water during early morning hours or in the evening after dark to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Make sure you do not over-water your lawn. Step on your grass to see if it needs water. If it springs back, it doesn't need to be watered.
- ◆ Plant native and drought tolerant trees and plants. These selections will not need to be watered once they become established.



**City of Greensboro**  
**WaterWise Hotline**  
 373-7610



# WaterWise Home



**Locate water waste and save money.**

### INSIDE:

- ◆ Indoor Water Audit
- ◆ Outdoor Water Audit
- ◆ How to Detect Leaks
- ◆ Residential Indoor Water Use
- ◆ Water Saving Tips

# Outdoor Water Audit

### Leaks

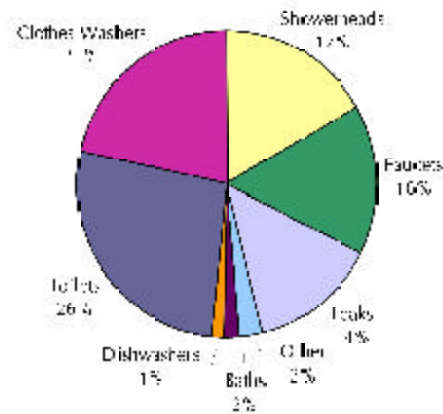
- Check under the house for any signs of leakage.
- Inspect water hoses and connectors for leaks regularly.
- Check for unusually wet areas in your yard. Wet areas may indicate a leaky pipe.

### Landscaping

- Apply mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture in soil.
- Set lawnmower blades for the maximum height for your type of grass (3 inches for tall fescue).



## Residential Indoor Water Use



Average water usage per person:  
69.3 gallons per day

### Flow Rate Test

1. Turn your shower or faucet on, and move a container into the spray of water for 5 seconds.
2. Use a measuring cup to determine how many ounces are in the container.
3. Multiply by 12 to determine ounces per minute.
4. Divide by 128 to determine gallons per minute.

# Indoor Water Audit

## Laundry Room

- ❑ Check hoses and connectors for leaks.
- ❑ Only wash with a full load of clothes.
- ❑ If you must wash with less than a full load, make sure that the water level is preset for your specific load size.
- ❑ When you replace your clothes washer, consider a high efficiency tumble action washer (also called front loaders or horizontal axis washers). These washers save about 5,500 gallons of water per year, and they save electricity.

## Bathroom

- ❑ Fix leaky faucets.
- ❑ Install a water saving aerator on your bathroom faucet if the flow rate is more than one-half gallon per minute (See Flow Rate Test).
- ❑ Test to determine if your showerhead is wasting water. If your showerhead uses more than 3 gallons per minute, replace it (See Flow Rate Test).
- ❑ Replace your tub spout if it runs while you take showers.
- ❑ Test your toilet for leaks (See Toilet Leak Test). A leaky toilet wastes more than 50 gallons of water per day.
- ❑ Consider replacing your toilet with one that uses 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets installed before 1994 use between 3.5 and 6 gallons per flush.

## Kitchen

- ❑ Fix leaky faucets.
- ❑ Install a 2 gallon per minute aerator on your kitchen faucet if there is no aerator.
- ❑ Avoid using your garbage disposal. They waste water and contribute to sewer line problems. Start a compost pile for vegetable scraps and throw grease in the trash.
- ❑ Always keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator to avoid running the tap unnecessarily.

## Toilet Leak Test

1. Put two dye tablets or 10 drops of dark food coloring into your tank.
2. Do not flush the commode.
3. Wait 30 minutes.
4. If you see color in your toilet bowl, your toilet is leaking.

Call the WaterWise Hotline  
373-7610

## Leak Detection

1. To check for leaks in your home, turn off everything that uses water including the washing machine, dishwasher, faucets, and even the icemaker.
2. Locate your water meter. It should be in the ground on the edge of your property. The lid will be an oval piece of steel or aluminum that may have the words "water meter" on it.
3. Remove the lid. Most covers have a pentagon-shaped bolt that is easily turned with a wrench. If your meter lid does have a bolt, simply pry off the cover using a screwdriver or similar device.
4. Once the lid is off, locate the gauge with the red needle. Each time the needle completes one rotation, 7.5 gallons have passed through the meter.
5. If the red needle is turning, you have a leak.