

## Water Conservation Measures

To save us water and save you money



The Danbury Water Department always recommends the careful use of water, especially in a time of lower than normal rainfall. The four basics to saving water are: **economize, repair leaks, install water saving devices, and reuse water.** Below we have listed some suggestions and ideas for detecting leaks and conserving water:

1. Faucet leaks are easy to detect. If it drips, or worse, continues to run after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is hot, it is costing you additional money to heat the water. A licensed plumber can fix your faucet, or go to a home center and get the parts and instructions to fix it yourself.

2. The largest amount of water use indoors is in flushing the toilet. Toilets are the location for the greatest, and most costly, indoor leaks. You can fix leaks in your toilet and save up to 100 gallons of water per day. To check for leaky toilets lift the cover of the tank behind the bowl and put a drop or two of food coloring in the water. Let the toilet sit for a short period of time and look to see if the water in the bowl turns color, or if the dye appears in the overflow tube. If it does, you have a leak that needs repair.

3. Water dripping from the shower head when the shower is off, or running out of the spout with the shower on, is usually caused by a bad washer or seat that needs

replacing. Fix leaking fixtures as soon as possible. Leaking water can dribble away thousands of gallons of water per year.

4. Do not let the faucet run continuously while brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on and off as needed instead of wasting water down the drain.

5. Bath water can be reused for watering lawns and shrubs and for heavy cleaning jobs.

6. Use your water meter to check for water leaks. Start by making sure that all water using appliances are not being used, including automatic ice makers. Check your water meter to see if the dial is moving. You can record the numbers displayed on the meter and check them again after an hour. If the numbers change while no water is being used in the home then there is a leak that should be repaired.

7. Only run your dishwasher and clothes washing machines when you have a full load. Avoid pre-rinsing. All hand washed dishes should be rinsed at one time.

8. Store a jug of ice water in the refrigerator for a cold drink rather than running the faucet until it gets cold.

9. Outdoors, use only native plant species. They require less water and resist the cold weather better than imported plants.

10. Use low flow shower heads, faucet aerators, or flow restrictors.

## Unrepaired Leaks can be Costly

Water Loss in Gallons		
Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	600	20,790
•	1,200	36,000
•	1,920	57,600
•	3,096	92,880
•	4,296	128,980
•	6,640	199,200
•	8,984	200,520
•	8,424	252,720
•	9,888	296,640
•	11,324	339,720
•	12,720	381,600
•	14,952	448,560

11. Shut off the valve to outdoor fixtures in winter and drain back the pipes feeding these fixtures to prevent frozen pipes.

*Water is one of our most precious resources. We should all use it wisely.*

*If you have any questions about water use, detecting leaks, or water conservation, please call the Danbury Water Department. (203) 797-4637*