



Town of Chatham

Handy Tips to Conserve Water

- Have a family discussion about water use and ways to cut down. Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth? Do you take extra long showers? These are simple things your family can do to start saving water today!

- Check your water system periodically for leaks and repair them right away.



- Install water saving devices:

- ✓ Aerators (devices that mix air with water)
- ✓ Low-flow fixtures (such as shower heads)
- ✓ Tank displacement devices (for older toilets that use 3.5 gallons or more per flush)



- Save water while preparing food:

- ✓ Use a brush & bowl of water to clean food instead of letting the water run.
- ✓ Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.

- Know the proper settings on your washer and only wash full loads of wash.

- Wash dishes wisely:

- ✓ Use a dishwasher if you have one. Scrape dishes – don't pre-rinse.
- ✓ Wash only full loads.
- ✓ If you wash by hand. Soak pots and pans before washing, don't run water continuously.
- ✓ Limit your use of the garbage disposal. Better yet compost!



- Use less water to clean your home.

- ✓ Use a pail or basin instead of running water. Also, use a sponge mop instead of a string mop (sponge mops use less water and take less water to clean).

- Minimize watering outdoors: *

- ✓ Water when the sun is down (to avoid evaporation) and when it's not windy. Water slowly, deeply and as little as possible.
- ✓ Let grass grow taller in hot weather.
- ✓ Use mulch in the garden and around shrubs to save moisture.
- ✓ Plant shrubs and other plants that don't need a lot of watering. Consider alternatives to big thirsty lawns, such as native grasses.
- ✓ Obey the water conservation restrictions in your community.



- Keep up with pool and hot tub care: **
 - ✓ Don't overfill. This helps reduce splashing and spilling.
 - ✓ Use a cover to slow evaporation (this keeps water cleaner, too).
 - ✓ Check walls, filtration systems and inlets. Repair them when needed.

* See Town of Chatham Water Rules and Regulations, Article VI – Irrigation Systems Connected to the Public Water Supply in Useful Links

** See Town of Chatham Water Rules and Regulations, Article VII – Swimming Pools in Useful Links



Water Costs Money Don't Waste It!

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons of water a day.....total of 1095 gallons a year.

Waste per quarter of 60 psi water pressure.....



Diameter of Stream		Gallons	Cubic Feet
●	1/4"	1,181,500	158,000
●	3/16"	666,000	89,031
●	1/8 "	296,000	39,400
●	1/16"	74,000	9,850



A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.

How can I help conserve?

You can help conserve by installing water saving plumbing fixtures, and appliances. The table below gives an estimate of just how much can be saved when you replace conventional fixtures with modern low flow fixtures.

Vintage Toilet*	4-6 gallons per flush
Conventional Toilet**	3.5 gallons per flush
Low Flow Toilet***	1.6 gallons per flush
Conventional Showerhead	3-10 gallon per minute
Low Flow Showerhead	2-2.5 gallons per minute
Faucet Aerator	3-6 gallons per minute
Flow Regulating Aerator	0.5-2.5 gallons per minute
Top Loading Washer	40-55 gallons per load
Front Loading Washer	22-25 gallons per load

*Manufactured before 1978

**Manufactured between 1978 and 1993

***Manufactured after 1994

Meet Your Water Meter

Your water meter is the best detective in the home. It can tell whether you have a sizeable leak, as well as how much water various appliances are using.



The Town's water meters are read in cubic feet, to calculate the gallons of water delivered to the home take the cubic feet reading from the water meter (first four numbers from left to right) add two zeros and multiply by 7.48. Using the reading on the meter above of 126,300 \times 7.48 = 944,724 gallons for the life of the meter.

- ❖ Note these meters are never reset. To find how much water you've used in any given period, just subtract the number of cubic feet used on your last bill from the current meter reading.

Now do some checking:

- If doing outside watering watch the meter dial move for precisely one minute. Multiply the number of gallons times 60 for the quantity used per hour. Then estimate how long you usually leave the sprinkler/irrigation system running. You may be surprised at the hundreds of gallons going onto the lawn and garden every week.
- When a family member steps into the shower and with the same timing routine as above. Check the volume consumed in one minute and multiply by the number of minutes a normal shower in your family takes.
- For leak detection, turn everything off carefully, so no water is being used anywhere in the house. Then check the meter dial for about 15 minutes. If it hasn't moved, you have a relatively water-tight home. **BUT** if it has, start checking hose connections, faucets, and toilets for leaks.

Note a toilet can have a slow leak that can not be heard. There are tablets that can be put in the toilet tank to check for leaks, which are available at the Water Division.

- Sometimes a meter is located in a meter pit outside of the house, will indicate a leak when everything inside seems tight. The leak may be hidden underground in the pipes. If you believe that this is the case you can call the Water Division for advice as to who to contact.

Useful Links

Town of Chatham Water Division

<https://www.chatham-ma.gov/water-sewer-division>

Town of Chatham Water Rules and Regulations

https://www.chatham-ma.gov/sites/chathamma/files/uploads/town_of_chatham_rules_and_regulations_of_the_water_department_4.25.17.pdf

I resolve to Save Water in 2019!

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/ws-ourwater-pledge-checklist-2019.pdf>

Region 1: EPA New England Water Conservation Tips for Residents

https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_residents.html

Tips for Saving Water Indoors and Outdoors

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/tips-for-saving-water-indoors-and-outdoors.html>

Garden and Landscaping Water Conservation Tips and Rain Barrel Information

<http://www.mwra.com/comsupport/conservation/gardeningtips.htm>

Web links for Water Related Topics

Information on a wide rang of water related topics

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>