

Conservation Tips

In 1998, Entranosa Water Association developed a conservation plan that is still relevant for an arid environment like the East Mountains and Estancia Valley. Here are some suggested water-saving tip that our members can use at home to save water and save money on their water bills. Pick the water-saving changes that will fit with your family's lifestyle.

In the Kitchen:

- When hand washing dishes, don't let the water run. Fill one side of the sink with sudsy water for washing and the other side with clean water for rinsing.
- Try to run the dishwasher with a full load, rather than hand washing. Most dishwashers comply with strict water-use guideline.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. This saves gallons of water washing down the residue. If possible, compost vegetable scraps and peels and can use to enrich garden soil.
- Fill a bowl with clean water to wash lettuce and vegetables rather than washing with running water. Collect the water for watering house plants.
- Steam vegetables in about an inch of water and cover the pan with a lid. This helps the vegetables retain vitamins and minerals and uses less cooking water.
- Thaw frozen food in a bowl of water or in the refrigerator, rather than thawing under running water.

In the Bathroom:

- When brushing your teeth, turn off the running water. Rinse when you are finished. Some estimates are that your family can save 25 gallons a month this way.
- Shower instead of taking a bath. Low flow shower heads also save water.
- If a shower isn't available, reduce the water level in the tub by two or three inches.
- Install low-flow toilet parts and low-flow shower heads.
- Use a toilet tank displacement device to save water in the tank. You can also fill a small plastic bottle with gravel. Place the capped bottle in the tank to reduce the amount of water used with each flush.
- When washing your hands, soap up, then turn off the tap while you scrub. Turn the tap only when ready to rinse. When shaving, fill the sink basin with warm water and rinse the razor in the sink. This save substantial water over letting the tap run.

In the Laundry:

- Wash and dry laundry in full loads. You could save up 1,000 gallons a month.
- Wash most loads in cold water instead of hot. If you have loads of heavily soiled clothes, soak them prior in a bucket with water and a small amount of laundry detergent.

Plumbing and Appliances:

- Check all waterline connections and faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water a day or up to 5,000 gallons a month.
- Keep your water heater set at a recommended temperature. Water that is too hot to the touch requires cooling off with cold water before using.
- Winterize outdoor spigots to prevent pipes and connections from freezing.

Outdoors:

- Water plants early in the day during the hot months. Otherwise, a portion of your water is lost to evaporation.
- Don't use sprinklers on windy days. Use sprinklers that produce larger drops rather than a fine mist, which evaporates more quickly.
- If possible, use drip irrigation for flower beds, gardens and trees. If watering with a hose, make sure plants have wide enough holes that watering once will sustain the plants for a week.
- Don't wash your car or truck with a sprayer; use a bucket and soap up the vehicle before rinsing.
- Watch for unexplained "oasis" in your yard or near driveways. These green areas could indicate a leak that is making extra growth possible.