

# CITY OF OBERLIN

## *Water Conservation Tips*

- Identify toilet leaks by placing a dye tablet or a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes, you have a leak. A worn flapper is the most common cause by far, and can be easily replaced.
- Consider installing a new toilet that uses 1.6 gallons per flush or less. Older toilets use 3.5 gallons per flush or more. Even better, consider installing a toilet that has two flushing options.
- Watch your water softener's regeneration cycle. The normal regeneration time is 2 hours and takes place during the night. If not set correctly, your softener can be a major source of water usage.
- Never run your dishwasher or washing machine without full loads.
- Take shorter showers and avoid baths altogether if you can. This can save you 100 gallons or more a day if you have multiple people in your household who take long showers.
- Turn your faucet off while brushing your teeth or lathering up your hands.
- Have you boiled some noodles for dinner? Let the water cool and use it to water your indoor or outdoor plants.
- Wash your dog outside. The water running off of your dog will also work to water your yard. Plus, you'll have less dog hair clogging your drain.
- Wash your dishes in the dishwasher instead of by hand. You might use twice as much water for handwashing.
- Use a broom to clean your driveways or sidewalks instead of a hose.
- Pull those weeds out of your garden. Fewer plants means less need for watering.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to cut down on evaporation of moisture.
- Install a faucet aerator to save hundreds of gallons per month
- Find and fix any leaky faucets. One drip per second can add up to 5 gallons of lost water per day.
- Install water saving shower heads. Older shower heads use 5 gallons or more per minute. The new heads use less than half of that.
- Consider replacing your clothes washer with a high efficiency model.
- Water your lawn in the morning because when it's hot and sunny, most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it