

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SAVE WATER DURING A DROUGHT?

Water is a precious resource. All living things depend on water to survive. Unfortunately, few of us think much about the importance of water until it is in limited supply. To help you appreciate just how important water is to all of us, here are a few interesting

WATER FACTS:



Without water there could be no life. We live on a "water planet". When viewed from space, earth is blue and white. The blue is the oceans and the white is water vapor.



The human body is about 75% water.



Tomatoes are 90% water, potatoes 80%, and chickens 75%.



Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water.



Nearly 50% of the world's population lacks access to clean water for sanitation, drinking and other needs.



You can save 5 gallons of water a day just by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth.



A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons of water a day.



One newspaper a day means the use of 66,000 gallons of water a day.



It takes 6 gallons of water to produce one gallon of gasoline.



About 75% of your brain is water--use it wisely to learn to make water conservation an everyday habit!

You and your family can save hundreds of gallons of water a week by following these simple

DO's and DON'TS of WATER CONSERVATION:

IN THE BATHROOM: (almost two-thirds of home water use is for toilet flushing and bathing!)



DO fill the bath tub only halfway and save 10-15 gallons.



DO take shorter showers and save 3-5 gallons of water a minute.



DON'T use the toilet as a waste basket. Throw trash in a trash basket and avoid flushing unnecessarily.



DON'T leave the water running when you brush your teeth or wash your hands or face. Faucets use about 2-3 gallons every minute!

IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY:



DO make sure the dishwasher is full before turning it on. Dishwashers use between 8 and 12 gallons of water per load.



DO make sure your clothes washer is full before turning it on. Each load of laundry usually requires 50 gallons or more of water.



DO use a bowl of water to clean fruits and vegetables rather than running water over them. Reuse the water in the bowl to water your houseplants.



DO store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.



DON'T let the water run when washing dishes.

IN THE GARDEN:



DO use a self-closing nozzle on your garden hose.



DO use native plants in your garden (plants that normally grow in the area you live and do not need a lot of water or care)



DON'T water gardens or lawns during the heat of day. Up to 90% of the water you use is lost through evaporation!



DON'T use water to clean off your sidewalks or driveways--use a broom and sweep them instead.

REMEMBER...



Never put water down a drain that can be used for something else such as watering a garden or cleaning.



Educate and encourage your family, friends, neighbors, and school to practice water conservation



Try to do one thing each day to conserve water. **EVERY DROP COUNTS!**

Irrigation Meter Information:

Do you use a lot of water for watering your lawn or filling your pool? If so, you may be able to reduce your monthly wastewater bill by getting a separate irrigation account—a water meter exclusively for outdoor water use.



The frequently asked questions below will help you determine if an irrigation meter is a good fit for you.

For more information, please contact our Water and Sewer Billing Department at (864) 653-2035.

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the advantage in getting a separate irrigation account?

The advantage is this: You won't pay wastewater charges on the water you use outdoors. You will continue to pay wastewater charges for your residential account that supplies your home, but those charges will be based on your indoor water usage, which typically decreases when you begin using your irrigation meter for outdoor watering.

How much does it cost to install a residential irrigation meter?

The total cost to install a ¾" domestic irrigation meter is \$200, (the customer provides everything past the meter box.)

It's important to note that homeowner irrigation accounts require you to install a backflow prevention device on underground systems and have it tested initially by an approved tester before being placed into service and then every three years after that. A certified plumber or contractor can install a backflow preventer for you. The cost will depend on the type of device required and the installation labor. Testing fees vary, so it's a good idea to call around for pricing to Certified Testers please follow this link to the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control website for a list of certified testers:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/bfgen.pdf>

How do I apply for an irrigation meter?

You can apply for an irrigation meter by going by the Utility Billing Department and filling out an application.

How long will it take to get an irrigation meter installed?

It typically takes three to four weeks from the time you apply and pay for an irrigation account to the time it is installed.

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact our Utility Billing Department at (864) 653-2035 or Utilities Department (864) 653-2046.

What is a backflow device?

Backflow preventers protect the City of Clemson's public water supply from potential contamination by blocking backflow.