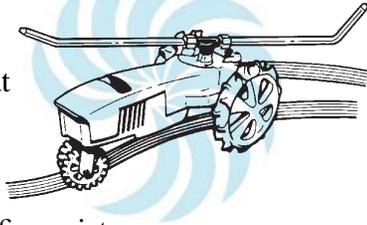


## Outdoor Uses

- Water lawns early in the morning.
- Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water instead of a fine mist.
- Avoid evaporation by turning soaker hoses so the holes face the ground.
- Water slowly for better absorption and avoid watering on windy days.
- Do not water sidewalks, streets or driveways.
- Condition the soil with compost before planting grass or flowerbeds so that water will soak in instead of running off.
- Fertilize lawns at least twice a year for root stimulation. Grass with a good root system makes better use of water.
- Learn to know when grass needs water. If it has turned a dull grey-green or if footprints remain visible, it needs water.
- Do not over water. Soil can only absorb so much moisture and the rest runs off. An inch and one-half of water, applied weekly, will keep most Texas grasses alive.



- Operate automatic sprinkler systems only when the demand on the city's water supply is lowest. Set the system to operate between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- Do not scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better. Grass should be cut often so that only 1/2 to 3/4 inch is trimmed off.
- Use a water can or hand water with the hose in small areas of the lawn that need more frequent watering.
- Learn what types of grass, shrubbery and plants do best in the area and in which parts of the lawn. For example, no amount of water will make roses bloom in a heavily shaded yard. Attractive arrangements of plants that are adapted to arid or semi-arid climates should be chosen.
- Consider decorating areas of lawn with rocks, gravel, wood chips, or other materials now available that require no water at all.
- Use a broom or a rake instead of a hose to sweep walks and driveways.
- Use a bucket of soapy water when washing the car and the hose only for rinsing.

## Water Saving Methods for Residents & Businesses of Victoria

In-Home water-use accounts for an average of 65% of total residential use:

- 40% Flushing the Toilet
- 35% Bathing
- 14% Washing Clothes
- 11% Kitchen Use

Watering outside the home accounts for 35% of residential water use.



# What Can You Do to Save Water?

## Bathroom

- Take a shower instead of filling the tub and taking a bath.
- Install a low flow head that restricts the quantity of flow at 80 psi to no more than 2.75 gallons per minute.
- Reduce the level of water being used in the bath tub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
- Do not use hot water when cold water will do. Washing hands with soap and cold water can save water and energy.
- Turn off water when brushing teeth until it is time to rinse.
- Do not let water run when washing hands. Water should be turned off while soaping and scrubbing and then turned on again to rinse.
- Hold hot water in the basin when shaving instead of letting the faucet continue to run.
- Test toilets for leaks. To test for a leak, add a few drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. The toilet should not be flushed. Watch to see if the coloring appears in the bowl. If it does, your toilet needs repair.



- Use a toilet tank displacement device. A one-gallon plastic milk container can be filled with stones or water, recapped, and placed in the toilet tank. This will reduce the amount of water in the tank but still provide enough for flushing.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of tissues, cigarette butts or other trash. This wastes a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.
- Install a new low-volume toilet that uses 1.6 gallons or less per flush when building or remodeling a bathroom.

## Kitchen

- Use a pan of water (or place a stopper in the sink) for rinsing pots, pans, and cooking implements while cooking, rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
- Never run the dishwasher without a full load.
- Use the sink disposal sparingly and never for just a few scraps.
- Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning vegetables instead of a running faucet.
- Use a small amount of water in the pot and put a lid on it for cooking most foods. This saves water and nutritious vitamins.

## Laundry

- Wash only a full load when using an automatic washing machine.
- Use the lowest water level setting for light loads.

## Appliances & Plumbing

- Check water requirements for various models and brands when purchasing new appliances that use water.
- Check all water line connections and faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day or 5,000 gallons per month, adding to the cost of your water bill.
- Replace faucet washers so that drips can be corrected promptly.
- Check for water leakage, such as a leak between the water meter and your house. To check, all indoor and outdoor faucets should be turned off. Check water meter to see if it is still running. If it is, a leak probably exists and should be located.
- Insulate all hot water pipes to avoid delays and wasted water experienced while waiting for the water to “run hot.”
- Be sure the hot water heater thermostat is not set too high. Extremely hot settings waste water since the water has to be cooled with cold water before it can be used.