

At your business

Water plays a big part in most businesses...from industrial uses, to cleaning and landscaping. Saving water saves money on your energy and waste water treatment costs as well. The ideas below may help your business use water more efficiently.

Increase employee awareness

Put up signs encouraging water conservation in employee kitchens, locker rooms, and in restrooms.

Set attainable goals for water use reductions. Check your success by reading water meters weekly. Let employees know how they are doing.

Brainstorm methods to conserve water. Offer incentives to employees whose suggestions to save water also save money.

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Adopt water saving maintenance procedures

Sweep materials from floors instead of washing down, whenever possible.

Instruct cleanup crews to use less water where appropriate.

Check your water supply system for leaks.

Repair dripping faucets and toilets that run continuously or leak.

Keep equipment calibrated and operating properly.

Identify your various water sources such as drinking fountains, outside water connections, sinks, and toilets. Monitor the usage and frequency of each to see where savings can be made.

Design and maintain landscapes for efficiency

Use and regularly manage centralized automatic irrigation systems.

Design watering systems to irrigate turf separately from trees, shrubs, and perennials, which require less water.

Operate sprinkler systems before sunrise and after sunset, and avoid irrigating during windy or rainy weather.



Water Wise

CONSERVATION TIPS
from the City of Longview & Cowlitz County PUD

Practical tips for doing your part:

- Indoors
- Outdoors
- At your business

It's easy. Using water wisely indoors, outside, and in your place of business can help conserve the water supply for the Longview urban area. As more and more demands are placed on our aging water treatment facility, it is important to use the water we have wisely. We encourage you to do your part to make every drop count.



It's water conservation time

Living in a community surrounded by trees, mountains, and rivers, it might seem far-fetched to consider our water supply ever running low. But that's exactly what Longview and surrounding areas may face this summer and fall...or any time of the year.

Silt in the Cowlitz River

The source of our drinking water is the Regional Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) located at the Longview-Kelso border. Water from the Cowlitz River is filtered and treated at the plant, and delivered to Longview and Cowlitz PUD customers.

There is plenty of water in the Cowlitz, but as you may have read or heard in our local media, a large amount of silt is washing down from Mt. St. Helens and clogging the RWTP facilities.

When water usage is low in the winter, the RWTP can meet demands, usually 200 gallons per day in the typical home. In the summer, however, that demand can climb to 400 gallons a day. Our water supply becomes vulnerable when we couple the increased usage with the silt problem and an aging facility that has experienced filter failures in the recent past.

New water system on the drawing board

Although a final decision has not been made, it appears the best long-term solution is a groundwater supply at the Mint Farm Industrial Park. While it can take five to ten years to plan for and construct a new water system, the City and Cowlitz PUD are working diligently to accomplish that in three years.

In addition, with the help of a citizen advisory committee, we have developed an Emergency Response Plan that includes alternate sources of water if we should experience a water shortage, and the Longview Municipal Code has been updated to provide for mandatory curtailment of water during a very serious emergency. Hopefully, these measures will not be necessary.

How you can help

Longview area water customers can be active partners in helping us to avoid a water supply emergency by reducing the demand on the intake system and treatment plant.

This newsletter offers valuable conservation tips for you, your family, and your place of business. Together, we can make every drop of our precious water supply count.

Questions?

Notify the City of Longview of any suspected water leaks in your area.
Daytime: 442.5700
Evenings and after hours: 577.3090.

For more information about water conservation, contact:

City of Longview Public Works
PO Box 128
Longview, WA 98632
442.5200
www.mylongview.com

Cowlitz County PUD
961 12th Ave.
Longview, WA 98632
423.2210
www.cowlitzpud.org



Indoor Water Use

You can help make every drop of water count by making sure you use water efficiently inside your home. Start by tackling the biggest water guzzlers first...in the laundry, kitchen, and bathroom. The chart below shows where water is used in a typical home. A family of four can save up to 68,000 gallons of water a year by following the conservation tips below.



In the laundry

An older washing machine can use 40 gallons of water per load or more, whether you wash a full load or a single sock! Use water (and energy) more efficiently by washing full loads only. If your washer has adjustable water levels and water temperature settings, use them according to the type of laundry that you are washing.

- Washing full loads only can **save up to 20 gallons** of water per load.

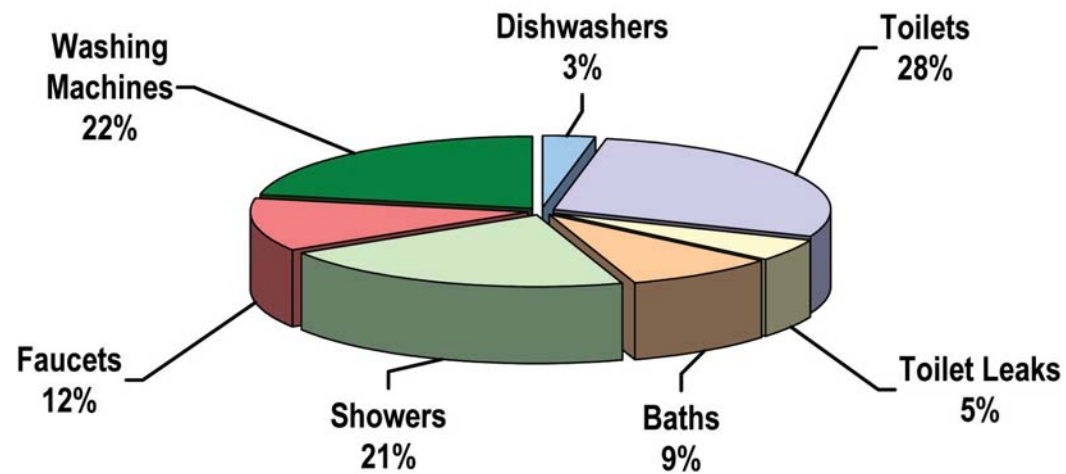
In the kitchen

Keep a pitcher of cool water in the refrigerator to prevent the need to run the tap to get a glass of cool water.

Don't thaw meat or other frozen foods with running water. Defrost food quickly by using the defrost setting on your microwave.

Automatic dishwashers use about 15 to 30 gallons of water per cycle, regardless of how much is in them. Make sure the dishwasher is full before you turn it on. When you wash dishes by hand, do not allow the water to continue running as you wash.

- Wash full loads in your dishwasher on a shorter cycle and **save up to 7 gallons** per load.



Fix dripping faucets and leaky pipes

A dripping faucet that fills a cup in 10 minutes wastes 3,280 gallons of water a year...or nearly 9 gallons per day! Check your outside faucets as well as the inside faucets for leaks.

Turn faucets off tightly after each use.

- Turn off the faucet when you shave or brush your teeth and **save 5 gallons per person** per day.
- Install a water-saving faucet aerator and **save an additional 5 gallons** per day.

Which saves more, a shower or a bath?

If you have an older high-flow shower head, there's no difference if the water was on for the same period of time for each use. Compare the time it takes to fill your tub or take a shower.

- Use a water-saving shower head and **save up to 12 gallons per person** per day.
- Fill the bathtub only half full and **save 18 to 25 gallons** per bath.

In the bathroom

Toilets should not be used in place of the trash can to flush away tissues, bugs, gum wrappers, or the goldfish that didn't make it. Depending on the age of your toilet, every flush uses 1.5 to 7 gallons of water.

- Use a displacement device (not a brick) or install a water-saving toilet and **save 3 to 25 gallons per person** per day.

Fix toilet leaks

You may not be able to hear or see a water leak. Check for flapper and valve leaks by putting a dye tablet or a bit of food coloring into the toilet tank. Wait a few minutes without flushing. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, you have one of the more common toilet leaks.

- A toilet leak can be silent and **waste more than 50 gallons** of water a day.



Outdoor Water Use

The biggest water conservation efforts can be realized in how you manage your outside water resources.

Some basics

Use an on/off nozzle for car washing. Don't let the water run!

Use a broom to clean off car ports or patios, not the water. Hose down sidewalks and driveways only as needed.

Don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.

When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.



In the garden

Water lawns and gardens only as needed. Every other day is sufficient. Lawn watering is most effective early in the morning or late in the evening, in cooler temperatures.

Nearly 80% of all landscape problems are caused by over-watering. Place a tuna can near the running sprinkler...and shut the water off when it is full.

Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.

Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and use ground cover like mulch or rocks.

While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.

Adjust lawn mowers to higher settings. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

Adjust sprinklers to ensure that only the lawns or plants get watered.