

## ***Water Conservation & Protection – Be Water Wise!***

Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. Let's protect and conserve our water today!

### ***Conserving Water Resources***

- Fix leaks inside and outside, including old leaky faucets, toilets, hoses and sprinkler systems. Replace them if necessary.
- Choose water saving fixtures and appliances, such as high-efficiency clothes washers and water-efficient dishwashers, which use 30% less water than traditional machines.
- Consider replacing your current showerhead with a low-flow showerhead, which used 2.5 gallons per minute or less.
- Make sure that hoses and sprinkler are watering plants and your lawn, not the side of your house or paved areas. Sweep driveways, sidewalks and porches rather than hosing to not only conserve water, but to avoid runoff. Washing the pavement for 60 minutes wastes 300 gallons of water!
- Water late at night or early in the morning (10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.), since less evaporation takes place during these hours. An inch of water per week is enough to keep lawns green. Over watering is the #1 waste of water in the summer, and the leading cause of disease and insect problems.

### ***Protecting Water Resources***

- Avoid fertilizers and pesticides, which can pollute ground and surface water. These chemicals can even be tracked into your home and onto carpets where they can remain for month.
- When washing vehicles, use a commercial car wash or a storm drain filter, or divert wash water to a grassy surface. Please do not let the polluted runoff go down the storm drain and contaminate your water resources.
- Amend your soil, which allows the soil to more easily absorb water. Clay soils absorb water so slowly that water runs off the surface. An organic soil amendment, such as compost, improves the soil's absorption and water-holding capabilities.

The State of Washington has a website with many links and a good deal of information at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html). The Regional Water Providers Consortium also offers water-saving tips at [www.conserveh20.org](http://www.conserveh20.org).