

12 Years of Conserving Water in Sioux Falls

The City of Sioux Falls Public Works Water Division has taken a proactive approach to help conserve water in our community. Conservation-based water rates, plumbing retrofit rebates, distribution of free conservation items, and lawn watering ordinances have allowed for millions of gallons of water to be saved each and every day in Sioux Falls.

From 2003–2014, the City of Sioux Falls Public Works Water Division provided \$3,103,000 in funding to promote and operate the water conservation program. This investment has saved our community over 3 billion gallons of water. Water conservation plays a vital role in preserving existing infrastructure and reducing the overall cost on electricity, new sources of water, treatment expenses, and additional storage facilities. Water conservation costs 33 percent less than new source development and this does not even factor in the above-mentioned savings on infrastructure.

All of these efforts played a role in making 2015 the first year since 2005 that there was not a water rate increase.

Today, the City of Sioux Falls is treating one million fewer gallons of water each day than it did in 2003, even with an increase in population of over 33,000 residents.

Inside this brochure you will find some helpful tips to use around your home and yard to save water indoors and out.

Additional Resources

City of Sioux Falls Water Division
siouxfalls.org/waterconservation

Environmental Protection Agency
epa.gov/watersense

American Water Works Association
awwa.org



City of Sioux Falls

City of Sioux Falls Water Conservation Program

Darin Freese
Water Program Coordinator
605-373-6971

Jessica Lantgen
Sustainability Coordinator
605-367-8187

**WATER
USE LESS
SAVE MORE**

**Residential Guide
to Water Conservation**

Outdoor Water Conservation



Take the time of day into consideration when watering your lawn.

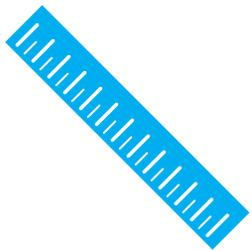
Water your lawn in the morning to reduce evaporation and growth of lawn diseases.



Avoid cutting your lawn too short.

Cut your grass to a height of 2.5–3 inches

to encourage deeper root systems, better absorption of moisture and nutrients, and better stress tolerance. Remember, City ordinance requires lawns to be kept shorter than 8 inches.



One inch of water per week is all your lawn needs to be green and healthy. Watering more volume, less

often, forces grass roots to grow deeper, resulting in deep, healthy root systems.



Make sure your sprinkler heads are properly adjusted.

Check to make sure your sprinklers are pointed at your lawn and not on any hardscapes. Keep in mind your yard's soil type and topography when developing a watering plan.



Leave your grass clippings where they fall.

Leave grass clippings where they fall to allow for decomposition. This will help return moisture to the soil and prevent evaporation.

Indoor Water Conservation



Run your dishwasher only when it is full.

Waiting to run the dishwasher until it is full will reduce the number of times you run the washer and, in turn, will reduce the amount of water used over time.



Use less water when hand washing dishes. Don't let water run while washing the dishes and always scrape food waste and leftovers into the garbage.



Use a low-flow showerhead. Replace an older showerhead with a newer, more efficient one to save money and water.

(Available from the City of Sioux Falls.)



Test for leaks in your toilet. Leaky toilets can waste 15–20 gallons of water per day. Check

your toilet's efficiency by using leak-detecting tablets. *(Available from the City of Sioux Falls.)*



Replace older toilets with new efficient models.

Toilets manufactured before 1992 use up to 5 gallons of water per flush as opposed to modern toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less.

(May qualify for a retrofit rebate.)



Run your washing machine only when you have a full load of laundry.

Consider installing a high-efficiency washing machine which uses

35–50 percent less water, as well as 50 percent less energy per load.

*Items available from the City of Sioux Falls can be picked up at Utility Billing (1201 North Western Avenue) and City Hall (224 West Ninth Street).