

**WATER TALK: CONSERVATION WORKS!**

Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. Less water consumed means a more sustainable supply.

**World's freshwater supply just a drop in the bucket**

Of all fresh water not locked up in ice caps or glaciers, some 20% is in areas too remote for humans to access and of the remaining 80%, about three-quarters comes at the wrong time and place – in monsoons and floods – and is not always captured for use by people. The remainder is less than 0.08 of 1% of the total water on the planet.



Canadians, on average, use about 330 litres per day for domestic purposes. That's more than almost everyone else in the world. The good news is that we can easily cut consumption by as much as 40% thereby reducing environmental and economic impact.

On the environmental side, high consumption stresses rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers. As well, the discharge of polluted water damages aquatic ecosystems.

On the economic side, high consumption requires ever-increasing and expensive investments in water system infrastructure to gather, treat, deliver and dispose of water.

Using less water puts less pressure on our sewage treatment facilities and septic systems. The availability of fresh water is worth protecting—lets conserve!

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS\******Bathroom Tips***

1. Put a plastic bottle or plastic bag weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Displacing the water in this way allows you to use less water with each flush. Save 19 to 38 litres per day. That's up to 1,140 litres per month—even more for large families. For even greater savings install an ultra-low flush model.
2. Check your toilet for leaks. Put food colouring into the tank. If colour appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
3. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Saves 11 litres per day.

*\*Savings based on a family of two adults and one child.*



# MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER FACT SHEET

## **Kitchen Tips:**

1. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge. This beats running tap water to cool it for drinking. Saves 750 litres per month. Tap water delivered by the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System water is fantastic quality. See [www.watersupply.london.ca](http://www.watersupply.london.ca) for information and notices about the system.
2. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan. Saves 750 litres per month.
3. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed. Save 180 litres per month.

## **Outside Tips:**

1. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
2. Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
3. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than when it is cut short.

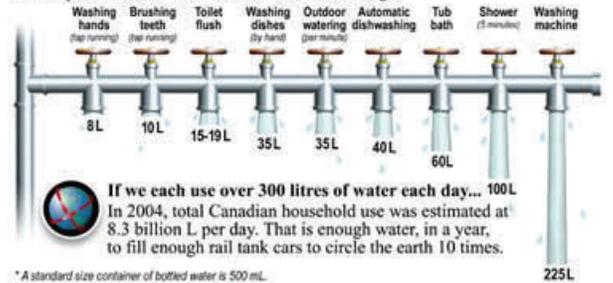
## **Canada's watery lifestyle**

In 2004, the average daily freshwater domestic use per capita was 329 litres, equal to more than 55 cases of standard-size bottled water.\* Here's how the average Canadian used that much water.



## **How can we be using *that* much water?**

Water goes down the drain faster than most of us realize. Here's how some of our daily activities contribute to our total water usage.



## **Water Links**

Here are some great web sites for water info! Let us know if you find others and we'll include them on future Fact Sheets!

[www.ec.gc.ca/WATER](http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER) (Comprehensive government of Canada site)

[www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com) (This site has the TIP TANK GAME—an internet matching game for kids!)

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*Support our Blue Flag Beach and Marina on Lake Huron in Bayfield!*