

Why do we need to conserve water?



Less than half of one percent of water in the world is fresh and accessible for people to use. In many parts of the world, water demand already exceeds supply creating tension between different water users. Every day in the United States, we drink about 110 million gallons of water, while showering and bathing are the largest indoor uses (27%) of water domestically. Water conservation is a big thing, but every little bit helps, so don't think that what you do doesn't matter. A whole lot of people doing a little bit adds up to a whole lot. We must all make changes in our lifestyles that will change the course of our water and its quality. Water conservation needs to be a way of life, not just something we think about once in awhile. If we all do our part in conserving water, we can make a huge difference for the environment.



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Shawnee Tribe

P.O. Box 189  
29 South Highway 69 A  
Miami, OK 74354  
Phone: 918-542-2441  
Fax: 918-542-2922  
E-mail: shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com

# Water Conservation:

Better for the  
Environment,  
Your lawn  
and your wallet

# 22 WAYS TO SAVE WATER.....

## SAVING WATER INDOORS

1. Verify that your house is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a 2 hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same there is a leak.
2. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at one drop per second you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons a year!
3. Never pour water down the drain when there could be another use for it such as watering plants or for cleaning.
4. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Set the water level for the size of the load you are using.
5. Store drinking water in a pitcher in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run for cool water to flow.
6. Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
7. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank . If the toilet



is leaking color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.

8. Install a displacement device (like a brick or a bottle) to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush.
9. Take shorter showers. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow version.
10. Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats.
11. Don't let the water run while shaving, washing your face or brushing your teeth.

## SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

12. If you have a well at home, periodically check the pump and listen to hear if the pump kicks on and off when water is not being used. If it does, you have a leak.
13. Water lawns during the early morning hours when the temperatures are at the lowest of the day. This reduces losses from evaporation.
14. Don't over-water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. Most lawns only need about one inch of rain a week; buy a rain gauge to measure rainfall.



15. Install drip irrigation and soakers hoses to help maximize conservation.

16. Raise the lawn mower blade to 3 inches or more. Taller grass encourages deep root systems and holds soil moisture better than shorter grass.

17. Apply mulch to retain moisture and control water consuming weeds.

18. Plant native grasses and drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.

19. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from driveways and walkways instead of spraying off with water.

20. Do not leave sprinklers unattended. A gallon hose can pour out 600 gallons in only a few hours. Use a kitchen timer to monitor usage.

21. Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water.

22. When washing your car park it in the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut off nozzle. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.