



Water Conservation is very important here in Texas, together we can ensure we preserve our aquifer levels during the dry months.

Below are some suggestions of how you can help conserve our Texas natural water resources.

### Around the house

- Installing low flow 2.5 (GPM) gallon per minute shower heads in your home. Additionally, you can install inexpensive low-flow faucet aerators on all kitchen and bathroom faucets, the aerator will give you the same pressure at the faucet while conserving water usage.
- Many older rubber toilet tank parts can become worn out and cause leaks, replacing worn flushing mechanism parts can prevent water loss at the toilet tank.
- If you need to replace your toilet soon, investigate a new 1.6 gallon per flush model. (Replacing your toilet with a new ultra-low volume (ULV) will reduce your water usage by 70% per toilet and 30% total in your home.)
- Adjust the water level when using the washing machine by what size load of laundry is being washed. **\*\*Did you know that avoiding using permanent press cycle can save water also? This cycle generally will use 5 gallons more water per load than the regular wash cycle.**
- If you replace your washing machine, look for a high efficiency machine. Some new Energy Star rated models only use 7 gallons per load vs. the average 54 gallons per load an older model uses. An Energy Star rated washing machine will use 35-50% less water and 50% less electrical energy per load, while front loading washers are the most efficient, there are new choices available now of new Energy Star rated top and front-loading machines that will reduce your water and electrical energy usage.

**\*\*\* GFU also offers a \$100.00 rebate if you install a natural gas clothes dryer as a replacement for an electric clothes dryer. This switch will save you \$\$\$ and conserve energy.**

- Only run your dishwasher when it is full, your dishwasher uses less water than hand washing.
- If you replace your dishwasher, look for an Energy Star rated model which again will reduce your water and electrical energy usage.

### Outside the house

- Plant drought resistant plants around your yard, there are many Texas native plants that are beautiful and will reduce your watering usage. The US EPA Water Sense website listed below, has a listing of drought resistant native plants for our area.
- Adding a rain collection barrel attached to your gutter downspouts on your home used to water outdoor plants for FREE. The barrels are elevated and fitted with a hose attachment fitting for watering your outside plants.
- Have your sprinkler system checked by a sprinkler professional for leaks, if you suspect leaks or have an older system. Installing a sprinkler timer and check all sprinkler heads for correct spray position and operation also conserves water.
- Water your yard only after 7 pm and before 11 am. This will ensure the water being used is not evaporating in the hot sun, it is also better for your plants which can burn if watered during the hotter parts of the day.
- Install a drip irrigation system for your outside landscaping beds. These can be a fun DIY project for your family or you may choose to have a professional install them. Your local Hardware stores generally carry these systems that have easy to setup instructions.

*There are many ways you and your family can conserve water inside and outside your home.*

*These websites below are an excellent resource for water conservation ideas.*

TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought/conservation.html>

US EPA – US Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

For your reference, visit the Edwards Aquifer Authority homepage for useful information about the aquifer.

<https://www.edwardsaquifer.org>

