

SPLASH INTO EXTENSION

Did You Know

Groundwater provides approximately 85% of the water used for human consumption in Nebraska.

Water Conservation In The Rural Home

When you have your own drinking water well and your own septic system, conserving water is important. Of course, it saves water, but it also saves money by reducing pumping costs. Just as important, it reduces the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated which will help protect and extend the life of your septic system.



Most people in the U.S. use 60 to 100 gallons of water per person per day. Since much of the water used indoors is used in the bathroom, it is a good place to start water conservation efforts.

Leaks

- A leaky faucet can waste 10 to 20 gallons or more per day and may damage the house structure. Repairing a faucet is usually as simple as changing an inexpensive metal washer or O-ring.
- Leaky toilets can waste many gallons per day. To find out if your toilet leaks, put a little food coloring in the tank as long as it will not stain your toilet. If, after 15 minutes without flushing, color appears in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired. Often, the leak can be repaired by replacing the flapper in the tank. The flapper seals water in the tank and allows water to flow into the toilet bowl when you flush.

Toilet Water Usage

- Do not use the toilet for a trash basket. Instead, put facial tissues, wipes, and other trash in the wastebasket for disposal. If you do not have a low-volume flush toilet, reduce the flush volume by adjusting the float rod downward or by purchasing special devices for the tank that reduce water usage.

Showers

- A quick shower usually draws less water than a bath. If you do not have a low-flow shower head, consider installing one. This reduces the flow rate but usually will maintain the velocity of the spray.

Faucets

- Turn off faucets while brushing teeth or shaving. Install a flow control device on your faucet. Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of water run while waiting for hot water.

In addition to conserving water, it's important to spread out water use to even out wastewater flow into your septic system. The most important step you can take is to wash one or two loads of laundry a day, rather than three or more loads in one day.

If you have holiday guests who are not familiar with private drinking water and wastewater systems, spend some time educating them so they, too, will understand the importance of conserving water.

Source: Sharon Skipton, Extension Educator