

# Water Challenge

Newsletter for the Waukesha Water Conservation Challenge



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## Welcome Challenge Participants

Welcome to the first Water Conservation Challenge in the State of Wisconsin! You are participating in a ground breaking event that is being recognized throughout the State of Wisconsin as an innovative program to promote awareness and effectiveness of residential Water Conservation. On behalf of the Waukesha Water Conservation Coalition, the main challenge sponsor, thanks for joining this community effort to save water and have fun.

*Water Challenge* is a seasonal newsletter for families and individuals who have signed up for the Waukesha Water Conservation Challenge. We will be providing periodic updates and information throughout the year.

### How the Challenge Works

The Challenge is a friendly competition among residential customers of the Waukesha Water Utility. Winners will be determined two ways:

- 1) Customers with the greatest reduction in water use over a 12 month period (four billing cycles)
- 2) Customers who come up with creative methods for reducing water use.

Reductions in water use will be determined by comparing each participating household's water use during the year long Challenge with their water

use during the four months prior to the challenge.

### Prizes

**Grand Prize:** the top winner receives \$500 & reimbursement of the water portion of their utility bill for the duration of the challenge.



**First Place:** The next four customers who save the most get reimbursed for the water portion of their utility bill for the duration of the challenge.

**Runner-up Prizes:** Awarded during the Challenge year to 10 customers who come up with unique and innovative ways to reduce water use inside or outside the home.

### Attend Water~Wise 2008

**March 15, 8:30am-3:00pm  
at Carroll College.**

Don't miss this 3rd annual conference on water issues, including conservation, improving water quality and maintaining our water supply.

The Keynote Speaker is Dr. JOHN J. MAGNUSON, Professor Emeritus of Zoology and Limnology at the UW-Madison, speaking on "Climate Change and Waters of Wisconsin"

For more information visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/community/milwaukee/events.asp>

## CONDUCT A HOUSEHOLD WATER AUDIT

A HOUSEHOLD WATER AUDIT involves calculating water use and identifying simple ways for saving water around the home.

THE BENEFITS OF CONDUCTING A WATER AUDIT include becoming aware of how your household uses water and identifying the best ways to minimize water use. It may be possible to cut your water usage 30 percent with simple conservation measures without drastically modifying your lifestyle. You will also save money by reducing your water and sewer bill.

### HOW DO I CALCULATE WATER USAGE IN MY HOME?

Use your water meter to determine the gallons of water consumed for various water use activities in the home. For example, reading the water meter before and after flushing the toilet tells you how many gallons of water it uses per flush. Taking similar readings for the washing machine or dishwasher provides similar information. Daily readings will provide good feedback on your family's water use patterns.

Keep in mind that water use varies with the season. Most households use more water in the warmer months for gardening, washing cars, and other outdoor uses. If you conduct your water audit in the winter or fall, you should factor in the additional water you probably use in the summer.



## ROOM BY ROOM WATER SAVING TIPS

### In the Kitchen

- Place a pitcher of water in the fridge, or warm the water in the microwave or on the stove instead of running water from the tap waiting for the temperature to change. Or use this "running-water" for watering the plants.
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight or use the microwave to defrost instead of using running tap water.
- Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load; and, if available, select the "light wash" option in order to use less water.
- Scrape dirty dishes instead of rinsing them off with water. Most dishwashers clean dishes very well without pre-rinsing.
- When washing dishes by hand, use sink stoppers or use two containers, one with soapy water and one with rinsing water, instead of turning the faucet on each time a rinse is needed.
- Compost vegetable scraps rather than running water for the garbage disposal.
- Use a pan of water to clean vegetables instead of running water from the faucet. Then, reuse this water for watering plants.

### In the Bathroom

- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth, washing, or shaving.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A fast shower, especially with a low-flow showerhead, uses less water.
- Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water for watering plants.
- Upgrade to a low-flow toilet. Only flush the toilet when necessary.

- Take short showers (yes, even you teenagers), When just washing your hair, turn the water on to get wet, turn it off while soaping up, and turn it back on to rinse off.
- Use the trash for tissues, wipes and insects instead of flushing them.
- Check for toilet leaks twice a year.

### In the Laundry

- Use the wash machine only when there is a full load. Adjust the water level based on the size of the load.

### In General

- Remember, saving hot water saves energy and water.
- When upgrading, choose Energy Star certified clothes washers and dishwashers. Front-loading washers use less water and detergent than top-loading machines.
- Do not pour water down the drain when it could be reused for watering plants, gardens, etc.
- Stop Leaks! To locate a leak using your water meter:
  - Make sure all water fixtures are closed and no water using appliances are on.
  - Locate your water meter.
  - Find the red diamond on the face of the water meter. If all the water is off and there are no leaks, the red diamond on the face of the water should be still. If the red diamond is moving, then you have a leak to track down somewhere.



### Water Challenge

*Save Water! Save Money! Win Prizes! Have Fun!*

Waukesha Water Utility Phone: 262-521-5272

115 Delafield Street Email: [contactus@waukesha-water.com](mailto:contactus@waukesha-water.com)

Waukesha, WI 53186 Web: <http://www.ci.waukesha.wi.us/WaterUtility/whatyoucandotohelp.html>

### The Waukesha Water Conservation Coalition

In 2006, Waukesha Mayor, Larry Nelson, and County Executive, Dan Vrakas, called for a coalition dedicated to Water Conservation in Waukesha County. The coalition consists of environmental groups, county, city and municipal leaders, the Waukesha Water Utility, college and school officials, scientists, engineers, attorneys, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and private individuals. All share the common desire to conserve and protect Waukesha County's critical resource . . . Water.