



CITY *of* EASTPOINTE

100 WAYS TO SAVE WATER

1. There are a number of ways to save water and they all start with you.
2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run rinsing. Fill one sink with water and the other with rinse water.
3. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered not the house, sidewalk, or street.
4. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1000 gallons a month.
5. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
6. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
7. Use the garbage disposal less often.
8. Plant during the spring or fall when the water requirements are lower.
9. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold water, so that every drop goes down you not the drain.
10. Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
11. Wash your produce in a dishpan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
12. Use the collected water from rinsing produce to water your houseplants.
13. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
14. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons of water every time.
15. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water efficient showerhead.
16. Water your lawn in several short sessions rather than one long one. This will allow the water to be absorbed.
17. We are more likely to notice and fix leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks. Fix them as needed.
18. Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device.
19. Only water your lawn as needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
20. When shopping for new appliances, keep in mind that one offering several different cycles will be more water and energy-efficient.
21. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
22. Install low volume toilets.
23. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass will reduce the loss of water to evaporation.

24. When you clean a fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants in the house or in the garden. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with free and effective fertilizer.
25. Water small areas of grass by hand to avoid waste.
26. Check your toilet tank periodically for leaks and water level.
27. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
28. Collect and use rain water for watering your garden. However, do not allow this water to become stagnant.
29. Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful run off.
30. Designate one glass for your drinking glass each day. This will cut down the number of times you run your dishwasher.
31. Instead of using a hose or a sink to get rid of paints, motor oil, and pesticides, dispose of them properly contact the Department of Public Works (586) 445-5040.
32. Install a rain shutoff device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
33. Don't use running water to thaw food.
34. Always water during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
35. Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation for you shrubs, flowers, and trees. Watering roots is very effective, be careful not to over water.
36. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
37. Remember the one-inch rule: Don't over water! Established lawns and shrubs and most vegetables and flowers need just one inch of water a week.
38. Cut back on the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs and ground cover or landscaping with rocks.
39. When doing laundry, match the water level to size of the load.
40. Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
41. Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
42. Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.
43. Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
44. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
45. Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
46. Make sure you know where your water shut off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe bursts.
47. When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.

48. To get the most from your watering time, group your plants according to their water needs.
49. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
50. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
51. Avoid installing ornamental water features unless the water is being recycled.
52. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
53. Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
54. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
55. Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives.
56. Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
57. Teach your family how to shut off your automatic watering systems so anyone who is home can turn sprinklers off when a storm is approaching.
58. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
59. Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
60. Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
61. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 500 gallons each year.
62. Install an instant water heater on the kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.
63. Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1 inch each year.
64. Spot spray or remove weeds as they appear.
65. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
66. Install a drip irrigation system around your trees and shrubs to water more efficiently.
67. Mow your lawn as infrequently as possible. Mowing puts your lawn under additional stress, causing it to require more water.
68. Don't use the sprinklers just to cool off for play. Running through water from a hose or sprinkler wastes gallons of water.
69. Make sure your swimming pool, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
70. Bathe your young children together.
71. Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubs or trees.
72. Winterize outdoor spigots to avoid pipes from busting or freezing.
73. Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.

74. Drop that tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save gallons every time.
75. Filling your bathtub only halfway. Saves 5 gallons or more. Saves in hot water costs, too.
76. If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree, or your lawn.
77. Make suggestions to your employer to save water (and dollars) at work.
78. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car to save more than 100 gallons.
79. Encourage friends and neighbors to be part of a water conscious community.
80. To find if you use more water taking a bath or a shower, close the drain next time you shower and see if you get a tub full of water.
81. Install a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with the operating parts.
82. Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum number of regeneration necessary to maintain water softness.
83. Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
84. Prune back heavy foliage. Reducing leaf area reduces water needs.
85. Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water department.
86. If your grass is brown, it's not dead, it's just dormant. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks. When rain begins, your grass will turn green again.
87. Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
88. Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.
89. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
90. Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and your fall lawn every fifth day.
91. Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
92. Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
93. Choose new water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.
94. Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
95. Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
96. Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water than may be necessary.

97. Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. For lawn watering advice, contact your local nursery.
98. Turn off water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.
99. Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance checkup. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.
100. Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal-- because every drop counts!