




# Tip Sheet - Water Conservation Best Practices

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## Best Practice Water Conservation Measures Inside Buildings

Domestic Fixture	Low Flow Rating	Remarks
<b>Water Closet</b>	3.5-5.0 gpf	Legacy
	1.6 gpf	Standard Low Flow
	<b>1.0/1.6 gpf</b>	Hi/Lo Flush Valve Retrofit  Not all fixtures will function well with less flow.
		
<b>Urinal</b>	2.0-2.5 gpf	Legacy
	1.0 gpf	Standard Low Flow
	<b>0.5 gpf</b>	Retrofit Kit
	Waterless	Replacement Fixture
<b>Lavatory</b>	2.5-3.0 gpm	Legacy
	2.2 gpm	Standard Low Flow
	<b>0.5 gpm</b> or 1.0 gpm	Low Flow Retrofit Kit
		
<b>Shower</b>	3.0-4.0 gpm	Legacy
	2.5 gpm	Standard Low Flow
	1.0, <b>1.25 gpm</b> , 1.5 gpm	Low Flow Replacement
		
<b>Kitchen Dishwasher</b> (Example is Single Tank Conveyor, Hi Temp)	1.1 Gal per Rack	Legacy
	<b>0.7 gal per rack</b>	Energy Star
		
		Eliminate Booster Heater with Chemical Sanitizer
<b>Kitchen Pre-Rinse</b>	2.5-5.0 gpm	Legacy
	<b>0.6 gpm</b> – 1.24 gpm	Low Flow
		

## Best Practice Irrigation Measures

Source: Scott Winters at Colorado Springs Utilities

	Type
<b>Irrigate 3 days per week or less.</b>	Low Cost
<b>Do not over-water.</b> Look for runoff as a sign of over-irrigating. If runoff occurs before desired amount of water is applied, cycle run times several hours apart to ensure adequate application.	Low Cost
<b>Schedule watering events</b> for early morning or evening, and avoid irrigating during the day. This can reduce irrigation consumption by 5-10%.	Low Cost
<b>Straighten sprinkler heads</b> and eliminate overspray on to hard surfaces such as parking lots or sidewalks.	Low Cost
<b>Operate irrigation system at optimum pressure</b> to ensure proper function of sprinkler heads. Install pressure regulating device(s) if necessary.	Low Cost
<b>Ensure irrigation system is free of leaks</b> , particularly valves and sprinkler heads.	Low Cost
<b>Aerate compacted soil</b> to help reduce runoff.	Low Cost
<b>Use irrigation sub metering</b> to eliminate default sewer charges for city water use.	Low Cost
<b>Use non-potable water</b> (mix of re-use and well water) where available.	Low Cost
<b>Conduct a professional audit</b> of the irrigation system to identify inefficiencies. Qualified companies will be Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditors, and a list of qualified firms can be found on the Irrigation Association website.	Capital
<b>Use rain sensors</b> to stop irrigating when it rains. This can reduce irrigation consumption by approximately 7% compared to just using a timer.	Capital
Utilize one of the following optimizing hardware systems: a. <b>Soil moisture sensors</b> in the root zone of the grass b. <b>Evapotranspiration (ET) controllers</b> that monitor precipitation, wind, and relative humidity. Either of these systems can reduce irrigation use by 15-25% or more.	Capital
<b>Retrofit standard rotor heads</b> with pressure regulating type with check valve feature. This can reduce irrigation use by 10-15%.	Capital
<b>Select grass that uses less water.</b> For example, native grass can reduce irrigation consumption by 60-80% compared to Kentucky Bluegrass.	Strategic
<b>Use soil amendments</b> to promote water infiltration and retention. Amendments should be organic material such as compost or aged manure (NOT topsoil), mixed in with the soil before initial sodding or seeding. This can reduce irrigation consumption by 10% and improve plant/lawn health.	Strategic