



SOUTHFIELD WATER DEPARTMENT

CONSERVING WATER . . . SAVES YOU MONEY

Conserving water and using it wisely are the best ways to save money on your water and sewer bills. Steps you can take to reduce your water usage include watering your lawn wisely and checking your home for any water leaks.

Use your water meter to check for leaks in your home. Start by turning off all faucets and water using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period. Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes, and then take a second reading. If the any of the numbers change, you have a leak.

For any questions or concerns you may have, please contact the City of Southfield Water and Sewer Department at 248-796-4850.

- Little leaks add up in a hurry. A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only 2 teaspoons a minutes comes to 15 gallons a day. That is 105 gallons a week, and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year! Check every faucet in the house. A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week.
- Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day. Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use. Identify leaks by adding food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without the toilet being flushed, you have a leak to repair. Also, periodically test the flush and overflow valves on all toilets.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Keep showers short.
- Close the tub drain before turning on the water.
- Run the garbage disposal only when necessary.
- Fill sink or basin when washing or rinsing dishes.
- Run the washing machine only when full or adjust the water setting.
- Periodically inspect furnace humidifiers.
- Consider installing aerators on all faucets and showerhead(s), installing low flow toilet(s) and purchasing more water and energy efficient appliances.

Efficient Irrigation Saves you Money

Much of the summer water peak demand is attributed to lawn and garden watering. Often water is applied inefficiently, resulting in significant wastage due to over watering, evaporation or run-off. Here are some general watering tips to help avoid wastage:

- Before watering, always take into account the amount of water Mother Nature has supplied to your lawn or garden in the preceding week. Leave a measuring container in the yard to help you monitor the amount of rainfall (empty it once per week) and follow the tips below to help determine how much water to add. Also bear in mind any watering restrictions that may apply in your municipality.
- Water in the early morning, before 9 a.m., to reduce evaporation and scorching of leaves from the sun. Water on calm days to prevent wind drift and evaporation.
- Set up your sprinkler or hose to avoid watering hard surfaces such as driveways and patios. If you're not careful, its water and money down the drain.
- Water slowly to avoid run-off and to ensure the soil absorbs the water.
- Regularly check your hose or irrigation equipment for leaks or blockages.
- Choose an efficient irrigation system. A soaker hose placed at the base of plants on the ground applies water to the soil where it is needed — rather than to the leaves — and reduces evaporation. Drip or trickle irrigation systems are highly efficient because they deliver water slowly and directly to the roots under the soil surface. This promotes deeper roots, which improve a plant's drought resiliency. If you use a sprinkler, choose one with a timer and that sprays close to the ground.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets and pipes and hoses.
- Prevent the creation of leaks by shutting off and draining water lines to outside spigots in the winter.