



## Customer Update Spring 2001

### Smart Water Saver

Spring is the time to review the basics on how to save water and save money!

**Fix all leaks!** One of the biggest wasters of water are leaks--toilets, faucets, hoses and pipes. Check regularly for signs of leaks, replace worn washers and valve seats. Test your toilet for silent leaks by putting dye tablets or food coloring in the tank. Do not flush. If, after a half hour, colored water appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

Dripping faucets waste hundreds of gallons of water a day. Check all faucets, even those seldom used, for leaks. Most faucet leaks can be fixed by replacing worn washers and "O" rings.

Outside faucets should also be checked periodically for leaks. Remember to turn off all outside faucets completely when not in use. Repair leaky hoses, faucets and faucet connections all of which can be costly and wasteful. Prompt action may result in large savings of water and money.

To determine how much water is lost from a dripping faucet visit our website at

[www.aadpw.org](http://www.aadpw.org). Click on the link to Water and Wastewater, and then click on the Water Conservation link. Use the interactive drip calculator to determine how much water is lost from a leak.

**Install Water-Saving Devices!** Use low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, or flow restrictors. Consider installing a toilet dam or other water saving device in older toilets. American Water Works Association research has found:

\*Daily indoor per capita water use in the typical single family home with no water-conserving fixtures is 74 gallons.

\*Households can reduce daily per capita water use by about 30% to about 51.9 gallons per day by installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks.

**Use Less Water! Conserve!** Water conservation starts at home - both inside and outside the home. Simple actions such as shorter showers, turning off the faucet while shaving or brushing your teeth, washing only full loads of clothes or dishes result in big savings of both water and money! Many tips are available and easy to obtain. Visit DPW's website at [www.aadpw.org](http://www.aadpw.org), or call Customer Relations for a list of tips for inside and outside the home. The American Water Works Association and numerous other web sites offer easy water conservation tips. Information is also available through your local library.

**Save Water Outdoors!** Outside watering is one of the most costly and often wasteful uses of water. Controlled, planned watering of lawns and gardens can maximize effectiveness while minimizing consumption and cost. Only water when necessary. One good soaking is better than light sprinklings. Water early or late to avoid

evaporation. Use mulch to hold in moisture. Sweep, don't hose porches, steps, driveways and sidewalks.

### Landscape Wisely - Xeriscape!

Landscape wisely - use plants that require minimal watering. The term Xeriscaping comes from the Greek word "xeros" which means dry. Therefore, xeriscaping is a technique of planning a landscape that conserves water by using plants that are tolerant of heat and dryness. Xeriscape-type landscaping is a package of seven tips for making a landscape more water-efficient.

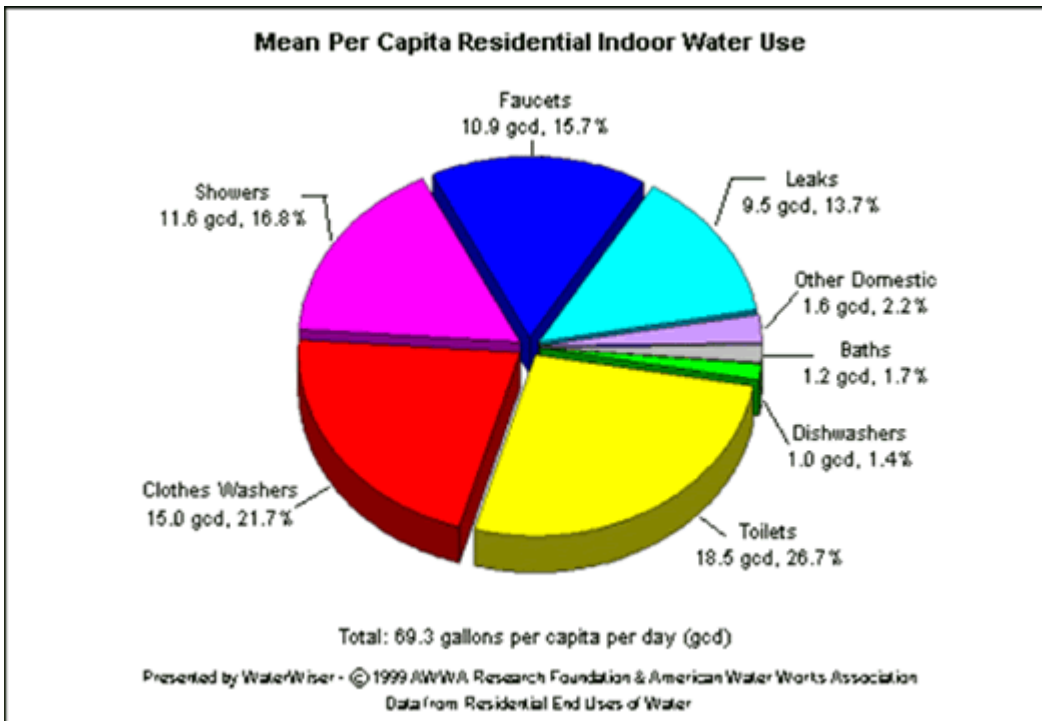
They are:

1. Planning
2. Soil analysis
3. Appropriate plant selection
4. Practical turn areas
5. Efficient irrigation
6. Use of mulches and
7. Appropriate maintenance.

More information about "Xeriscaping" is available through your local library or by visiting DPW's web-site at [www.aadpw.org](http://www.aadpw.org).



If mothers refresh their floral arrangements and flowering plants during Mothers' Day week, they will use 2,835,000 gallons of water. That is equivalent to the amount needed to supply a week's worth of water to 1,157 households!



*Do you know where your water goes?* In 1999 the American Water Works Association Residential End Uses of Water Study (REUWS) was released. The study is a current and comprehensive summary of how water is used in residential settings. Data was collected from 1,188 single family homes in twelve different sites throughout North America. This chart illustrates what the study found about how the average household uses water.

**Interesting Water Facts**

- 55,000 water systems in the US produce nearly 34 billion gallons of water per day.
- Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day.
- Water-conserving fixtures installed in U.S. households in 1998 saved 44 million gallons of water every day, which resulted in a total dollar savings of more than \$33.6 million.
- The annual water use for an average household is 127,400 gallons
- The average daily household uses 350 gallons of water a day.
- In 1999 Anne Arundel County provided 11 billion gallons of water to over 350,000 consumers.
- Over 8.6 billion gallons was taken from deep wells in the County, then treated and distributed through 1,100 miles of pipes to customers. The other 2.5 billion gallons was purchased from Baltimore City.