



# Water Conservation

## in and around your home



**Otonabee**  
CONSERVATION

### Water saving tips and measures that you can do - every day!

#### Water is a Shared Resource

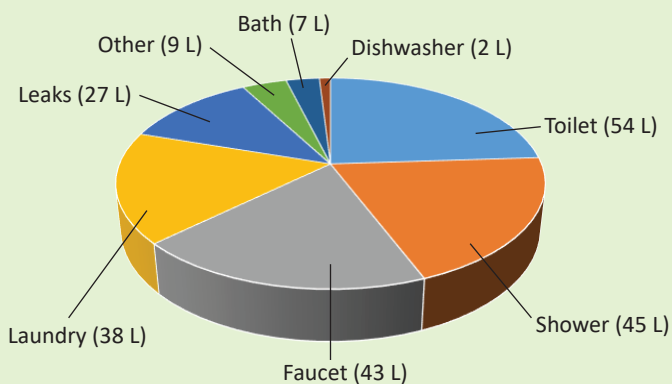
We all depend on water and expect it to be available when we need it, but when the precipitation we receive (rainfall and snow) falls below average, we experience low water conditions and even drought. During low water conditions and drought, it is especially important to conserve water and use it wisely in our daily routines and activities.

The source of our water is surface water from rivers, streams, and lakes, and groundwater. These sources are naturally replenished with rainfall and melting snow. Remember - Water is a Shared Resource.

#### How much water do YOU use?

Here are some facts about how much water we use at home in our daily routines and activities.

#### Daily Water Consumption | Average 225 Litres (L) per person






Source: Water Research Foundation



Low water on Jackson Creek, Peterborough, ON 2016

#### Water Conservation

There are many ways to reduce the amount of water used in and around your home every day. You can make small changes that have BIG impacts by following the 3 Rs of water conservation:

-  **Reduce** water use by changing a few habits
-  **Repair** leaks promptly
-  **Retrofit** fixtures to more water-efficient standards.

Several municipalities within the Otonabee Region Watershed have an outdoor water use bylaw. Check with your local municipality for details about where and when water restrictions are in effect.

Taking water from streams by pumping it into containers can impact other water users and the ecological function of streams. Also, it is not recommended to fill dry wells with surface water or treated water. Instead, check with your municipality to find out if a water-filling station or bulk water supplies are available. A permit from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change may be required for larger amounts.

# Water saving tips for your home

It is possible to reduce a household's water consumption by more than 40% without affecting lifestyle, by simply changing some habits and updating fixtures.



## IN THE BATHROOM

- 💧 If your toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position with water constantly running, replace or adjust it.
- 💧 Check to make sure your toilet flapper isn't leaking; add a few drops of food colouring into the toilet tank (but don't flush). If the colour appears in the toilet bowl, you have a flapper leak that needs repaired.
- 💧 Install a showerhead model with a "trickle" feature that allows you to lather up or shampoo under a trickle of water, and then resume with rinsing at the regular flow rate and temperature.
- 💧 Don't flush paper waste down the toilet if it can be disposed of in the waste basket.
- 💧 Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face.



## OUTDOORS

- 💧 Use a bucket, sponge, and a hose with a shut-off nozzle to wash and rinse your car or even better, go to a car wash that recycles the water that is used.
- 💧 Sweep driveways and walkways rather than washing these areas with the hose.
- 💧 Cover swimming pools when not in use to reduce evaporation and the need to add more water to the pool.
- 💧 Install rain barrels to collect water that can then be used to water gardens.
- 💧 Regularly check your sprinkler or other irrigation system for any leaks that need to be repaired.



## IN THE KITCHEN

- 💧 Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge rather than running tap water until it's cold enough to drink.
- 💧 Install an efficient faucet or aerator to reduce water demands for handwashing, rinsing fruits and vegetables, or dish washing.
- 💧 If you are washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of water required to do the task. Place washed dishes in a drying rack and rinse them together with a spray of water. Rinse fruits and vegetables in a bowl of water rather than under a running tap. You can then use the water for houseplants or in your garden.



## IN THE GARDEN

- 💧 Select native plant species that need less water.
- 💧 Group plants according to how much water they need.
- 💧 Maintain healthy soils to absorb surface water runoff, minimize erosion, and absorb nutrients and sediments.
- 💧 Water wisely at the base of the plant and not on the leaves; avoid watering during the heat of the day when evaporation rates are highest.
- 💧 Use mulch to reduce evaporation, moderate soil temperature, and inhibit weed growth.
- 💧 Add organic matter and aerate the soil to improve its ability to hold water.

This water conservation fact sheet is provided by the Otonabee Region Water Response Team.

The Otonabee Region Water Response Team is made up of representatives from local municipalities, water management agencies, tourism, cottage, and agriculture sectors, provincial and federal agencies, First Nations, and Otonabee Conservation. The area of jurisdiction of the Otonabee Region Water Response Team encompasses the drainage areas of the Otonabee, Indian and Ouse Rivers within the municipalities of Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Otonabee South Monaghan, Selwyn and the City of Peterborough, and portions of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Trent Hills.