

💧 WATER SAVING TIPS 💧

As we approach the summer months, water usage by our Community increases. The Water Department of Upper Leacock Township wants to remind our customers to be mindful of how they are using water and to use conservation practices that will preserve and protect our natural resource. With cooperation from Mother Nature and your continued dedication to protecting our water supply, we will avoid restrictions on water usage this summer.

Tips to conserve water inside the home:

- Leaking toilets can waste 200 gallons or more of water a day. Leaking flapper valves, or a water level in the tank that is too high, can be stealing water without you knowing it. Check for leaks by using food coloring to dye the water in the tank and watch for this color to appear in the toilet bowl. If it does, most likely the flapper valve is leaking. It is a good practice to routinely replace the flapper valve once or twice a year. Use a filled jug of water in the toilet tank to displace water, which in turn reduces the amount of water used in each flush.
- Install low flow aerators on faucets
- When cleaning vegetables, rinse them in a pan of water and use this on potted plants or in the garden.
- Make sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full before running. Use short cycles whenever possible. If hand washing dishes, use dish pans to wash and rinse instead of letting the faucet run to rinse. Rinse water can be used for watering plants.
- Keep a container near all sinks. Catch the water while waiting for it to warm up and reuse this water around the house.



Tips to conserve water outside the home:

- Catch rain water from down spouts and use this water for flowers, gardens, and car washing.
- When planting flowers or shrubs, prior to watering, mulch the plants as soon as possible to conserve moisture. Put a thick layer of shredded paper or several layers of newspaper

down as an underlayment; this makes the bark mulch go much farther and will decompose into the soil. Discourage competition for moisture from weeds; keep your gardens weed free.

- Use drip/soaker hoses or bucket drippers for irrigation. Your nursery or professional landscaper can also recommend drought tolerant plants.

Conservation through wellhead protection:

- Use your property wisely. What you dump, spill, or bury could eventually contaminate your drinking water. Dispose of hazardous products properly. Lancaster County Solid Waste Management has a collection station for unwanted household chemicals, used motor oil, cleaning solvents, anti-freeze, pesticides, herbicides, etc. Did you know that one gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water?
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals wisely. Follow the recommended dosage on the label. Also, seek alternatives to using chemicals by carefully selecting plants which don't need a lot of water, pesticides, or herbicides. Talk to your local garden center for information.
- Report any accidental spills immediately to emergency management by calling 911. Local fire departments and haz-mat teams are trained to cleanup these spills and minimize the damage to our environment.

Wellhead protection is another important part in conserving our water resources. Pollution of wellhead areas and water ways can contaminate our drinking water supplies. Did you know that 95% of the United States' total water supply of fresh water is ground water? The remaining is surface water found in lakes and streams. Protecting the aquifers from significant contamination and loss of recharge is essential to protecting the existing and future water supplies. What happens above ground can affect the quality and quantity of water below ground. Water conservation and protection of our water resource needs to be a part of our everyday lives. With the community's cooperation and participation, the Upper Leacock Township Water Department will continue to provide the community with a safe, abundant supply of water.