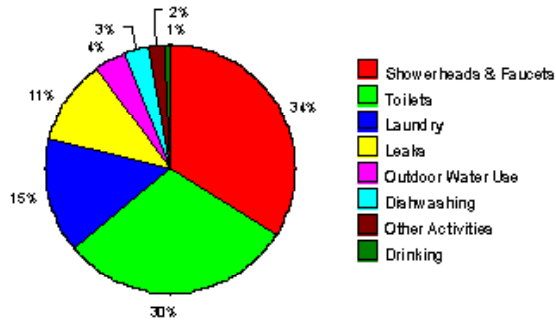


## Ever consider retrofitting plumbing fixtures?

Any plumbing fixture can be retrofitted to meet current water efficiency performance standards.

Retrofitting is modifying parts on equipment not available or considered necessary at the time of manufacturing. Simply install new parts in showers and toilets that convert them to low-flow household appliances and start saving water and money. Retrofitting showers and toilets can reduce household water use by 25 per cent. When purchasing a new washing machine or dishwasher consider water and energy efficiency ratings.

## Standard appliance water usage:



## Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ Take showers instead of baths
- ◆ Reduce shower time
- ◆ Use low-volume showerheads, toilets & faucets
- ◆ Turn off water when shaving and brushing teeth
- ◆ Install a water efficient toilet
- ◆ Check for leaks by monitoring monthly bills
- ◆ Do full loads of laundry with shorter cycles
- ◆ Wash dishes by hand and rinse in a dishpan
- ◆ Run the dishwasher with a full load only
- ◆ Don't thaw food under a running tap
- ◆ When on extended vacations, shut off the water to your home
- ◆ Use old fish tank water for the plants. It's high in nutrients!

## Extreme Drought and Elevated Restrictions

During times of extreme weather conditions it may be necessary to impose further restrictions, above and beyond that of the original By-law. This process has three phases;

### Stage 1 - Water Advisory

Requests that all persons refrain from using municipal water sources from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system for outdoor uses (watering lawns, flower beds, gardens, washing vehicles or driveways and topping up swimming pools.)

### Stage 2 – Water Ban

An alert is imposed, informing the public that no person shall use municipal water for sources from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system for outdoor uses (watering lawns, flower beds, gardens, washing vehicles or driveways and topping up swimming pools.)

### Stage 3 – Water Ban/Non-Essential Use Recommendations

In the event of an extreme low water situation, a ban is put in place. During this ban, those who do not comply may be charged and, upon conviction, be fined.

Residents are encouraged to check the Town's Website at [www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca) and/or the Bulletin Board pages in the Liberal newspaper, as well as local media for updates on what restrictions are in effect.

## For more information, contact:

### By-law Enforcement

Planning & Development Department

☎ : (905) 771-0198

☎ : (905) 771-5445

✉ : [bylaw@richmondhill.ca](mailto:bylaw@richmondhill.ca)

To obtain information about the Town of Richmond Hill in your preferred language, please call Access Richmond Hill at (905) 771-8800.

*Produced by the Communication Services Division,  
Office of the CAO; May 2009.*

The Town of Richmond Hill  
reminds you that

# Every Drop Counts



# What you should know about saving water



Town of  
**RICHMOND HILL**  
[www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca)

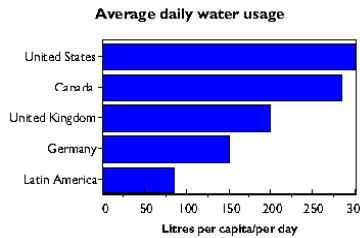
## What is water conservation?

Water conservation is using water wisely and more efficiently so that less of it is used. Anyone can learn how to conserve water - it's simple!

## Why should we conserve water?

The amount of water available to us is decreasing as a result of an ever-growing population. Ensuring that safe, clean water is available in the future is everyone's responsibility.

How much water does your household use? The average household uses more than double what it actually needs! Compared to other countries, Canadians use more water than necessary.



## The By-law

Did you know that Richmond Hill has an enforceable lawn watering By-law? It restricts lawn watering in the Town each summer and it also limits the hours when lawn watering is permitted. It applies to all residential, commercial, industrial and institutional properties in the Town.

Between June 15 and September 30, odd-numbered houses may water their lawns and gardens only on odd days of the month and even-numbered houses may water on even days of the month. Lawn watering is allowed for four hours between midnight and 6 a.m. **OR** between 7 and 10 p.m. The only exception is a two-month grace period for newly laid sod. Any person who contravenes the provisions of this By-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a maximum fine established pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Act*.

## How can you help?

The average resident in Richmond Hill uses about 260 litres of water per day. That's enough to fill two bath tubs. In the summer months, municipal water use doubles because people are watering lawns and gardens, filling swimming pools and washing cars. The increased use can lead to shortages and concerns over fire-fighting capabilities.

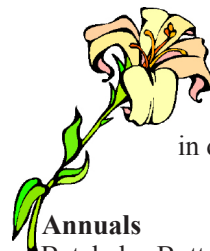


# Why not consider water efficient gardening?

Water efficient gardening means using plants, which require only rainfall once they've become established. It's convenient and requires less maintenance.

## Five Steps to a Water Efficient Garden

1. **Make sure that the soil is healthy. If you are not certain of its condition, it can be tested by a garden centre. All soils can be neutralized, so that they don't require as much water, by adding organic matter such as compost or manure.**
2. **Choose trees, shrubs and plants for your garden that are tolerant of dry conditions and are designated to grow in your zone.**
3. **Irrigate sensibly. Give the garden no more than one inch of water once a week. Plants and flowers should be watered directly at the base to ensure that the water reaches the roots.**
4. **Using a hose will waste water and time. Collect rain water for your outdoor watering needs. It's soft and free of calcium, lime and chlorine. But cover the rainwater with a screen to avoid creating a mosquito breeding ground. If catching rainwater isn't an option, use a bucket or watering can.**
5. **Mulching your plants with grass clippings, wood chips and manure will reduce evaporation, help to retain moisture in the soil and keep plant roots cool. This will also add valuable nutrients to the soil and keep waste from the landfill.**



## Selecting the right plants and flowers

As spring approaches, it's a good idea to prepare for ways to garden in less than ideal conditions. This means using plants and flowers that thrive in dry conditions whether it's shady or sunny. Here are some examples:

### Annuals

Batchelor Buttons - *Centaurea cyanus*  
California Poppy - *Eschscholzia californica*  
Malva - *Malva sylvestris*

### Perennials

Flowering Onion - *Allium species*  
Lily - *Lilium species*  
Shasta Daisy - *Leucanthemum x superbum*

### Shrubs

Hetzi Juniper - *Juniperus virginiana hetzi*  
Bayberry - *Myrica pennsylvannica*  
Euonymus - *Euonymus tuckermansii*

### Trees

Honeylocust - *Gleditsia triacanthos*  
Saskatoon Berry - *Amelanchier alnifolia*  
Wayfaring Tree - *Viburnum lantana*

## Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ Water dry areas with a watering can
- ◆ Plant drought resistant trees and plants
- ◆ Water the lawn only when needed
- ◆ Keep lawn free of weeds
- ◆ Mow as infrequently as possible
- ◆ Keep grass longer through dry spells
- ◆ Position sprinklers away from the pavement
- ◆ Use a broom to clean the driveway & sidewalk
- ◆ Use a bucket and sponge to wash your car
- ◆ Check for leaks in hoses, pipes, faucets and pools
- ◆ Cover your swimming pool to reduce evaporation
- ◆ Use shut-off nozzles on hoses

