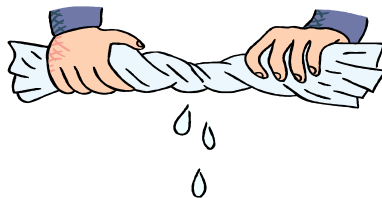


HELPFUL WEB SITES

- **EPA's Residential Water Conservation Techniques**
<http://www.epa.gov/seahome/watcon.html> With more than 100 color graphic screens and animation, this program shows effective ways to save water inside and outside the house. Topics include efficient toilets, showerheads, faucets; leak detection, water efficient lawn care and gardening; car washing and pool operation. Save amazing amounts of money while protecting the environment! The expert system feature allows users to calculate how much they will save by installing water efficient devices in their homes. Useful for everyone from the general public to utility managers. Also available in Spanish.
- **EPA's Water Efficiency Program** <http://www.epa.gov/owm/genwave.htm> A broad spectrum of stakeholders, from homeowners to State governments, can find information here that can help them become more water-efficient.
- **EPA's Drought Management Page** <http://www.epa.gov/owm/drouhome.htm> Great drought information, including water efficiency measures for Agricultural Districts, Municipal, Commercial, Industrial, Residential and Landscaping areas.
- **Where Does Your Water Come From?** <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ny.htm> If you are serviced by a public water supply and have ever wondered where the water in your glass comes from, check out this web site.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Backyard Conservation Tips Sheets**
<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html> Ten conservation tip sheets for homeowners and city residents to use in their yards. Includes a tip sheet on backyard water conservation.
- **National Drought Policy Commission** <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/drought/> The Commission is composed of fifteen members, representative of all levels of government and other drought impacted groups, and is charged by Congress to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies.
- **Drought Facts from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/droughtfacts.html> This site gives the latest drought press releases, other information on the drought, and things you can do to help.
- **National Drought Mitigation Center** <http://enso.unl.edu/ndmc/index.html> The National Drought Mitigation Center helps people and institutions develop and implement measures to reduce societal vulnerability to drought. The NDMC, based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, stresses preparation and risk management rather than crisis management.



Every Drop Counts!

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Many times we hear people say that they are not concerned about water conservation or drought because they are on public water. They believe that the municipality has the obligation to serve them, and no matter what, there will never be a supply problem.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Everyone's water comes from somewhere, be it a well field, reservoir, or the Hudson River. If there is too much demand, the water source will be strained, and may even go dry. To find out more about where your water comes from, visit the EPA's "Where Does Your Water Come From" web page at:

www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ny.htm

Dutchess County Soil and Water
 Conservation District
 Farm and Home Center
 2715 Route 44, Suite 3
 Millbrook, NY 12545



Phone: (845) 677-8011 ext. 3 Fax: (845) 677-8354
 Email: dutchess@ny.nacdnet.org
 Web Address: <http://dutchess.ny.nacdnet.org/>

EASY WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR YOUR HOME OR OFFICE



**Courtesy of
 Dutchess County
 Soil and Water
 Conservation District**

THERE IS NO NEW WATER

A large number of us rely on public or private well systems for our water, and how we use that water has an effect on our family as well as our neighbors.

Think of our water supply like a big pan of water, and your well like a straw in that pan. One thirsty person is able to drink from the pan and satisfy their thirst without running out of water first. Maybe three people are able to satisfy their thirst from the same pan at one time. There comes a point, however, where there are too many straws, and not enough water to satisfy everyone's thirst.

We are coming to that point in some communities, maybe even your own.

The average person uses about 120 gallons of water each day. This brochure has tips you can use in your home or office. They will help you to conserve water, as well as operate in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

Remember—Those Drips and Drops Add Up To Gallons!

WHAT CAN I DO?

Here are some simple things you can do to help conserve water. Some people may see them as an inconvenience, but they may be much less of an inconvenience than having nothing come out when you turn on the tap.

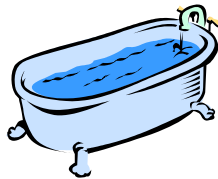


Washing machines use about 40 gallons of water and dishwashers 20 gallons of water each time they are used. Make sure yours are full before washing clothes or dishes.

A leaky faucet can waste 4 gallons of water a day, and leaky toilets can waste up to 200 gallons a day. Get them fixed right away!



Take a shower instead of a bath. A shower uses only 8 gallons of water while a bath can use between 20 and 40 gallons. Install a low-flow shower head to save even more water.



Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or scrubbing vegetables, and keep a jug of water in the



refrigerator instead of letting the water run until it is cold. This will save a gallon or two.

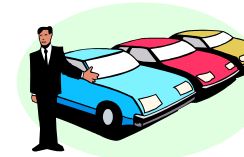
It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one Sunday newspaper. Make sure you recycle them and all other paper in your home or office.



Planting and gardening season is coming up. Make sure your garden hose has a spray nozzle that stops water from flowing when it is not in use. Also, use more efficient watering methods. Do not water your garden in the heat of midday when most of the moisture will be lost to evaporation. Water at night instead. Use drip or trickle irrigation instead of traditional spray irrigators.



Wash your car on the lawn instead of on hard surfaces. Water will filter back down into the ground to recharge groundwater instead of running off over the pavement. Auto dealerships should limit the number of times a week they wash their display vehicles.



Fill up your pool or spa with rain water instead of using the hose. Keep them covered when not in use to limit evaporation. Keep the water level lower than you normally would to minimize water loss from splashes.



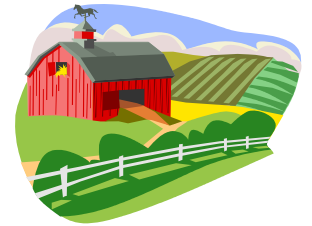
Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants which require smaller amounts of water more often. Also, use native plants in your landscape, which require less care and water than ornamental varieties.

Do not use water to spray down sidewalks and paved areas. Use a broom or leaf blower instead.



Another way you can help is by preserving farmland.

Farmland soil provides for infiltration of runoff waters, and allows it to be purified before recharging the groundwater. Become active in your local community by encouraging your local officials to promote legislation that protects farmland. Buy fruits and vegetables from farm stands when they are in season instead of from the supermarket, where they have been kept in cold storage for months and shipped halfway across the globe. Local goods are fresher, promote the local economy, and ensure that demand for farm goods keeps the farmland open for infiltration, and growing vegetables, not houses.



By doing these things, you can do your part to ensure that we all have enough water to go around.