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St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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Potable Water Distribution – Wastewater Collection / Treatment

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Water Usage and Conservation

As a general rule-of-thumb, each person should use about 80 - 100 gallons per day of water. If your water meter reading exceeds this rate, below are a few tips to consider for conserving water and reducing your water bill:

- **Repair leaky pipes and fixtures**
A leaking toilet could waste up to 9,000 gallons per year.
- **Replace old faucets and showerheads with new water-efficient models or install aerators to reduce flow**
Replacing faucets and showerheads in an average home can save 2,900 gallons of water per year.
- **Install low flow toilets or toilet dams**
Toilets installed before 1980 use significantly more water than new toilets. In an average home, replacing the toilets can save up to 18,000 gallons of water per year -- enough water to fill two swimming pools.
- **If you irrigate, install efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, soil soakers, and efficient sprinkler systems**
Set sprinklers so that they sprinkle the lawn and garden, not the street or sidewalk.
- **Water the lawn only when the ground is dry and preferably no more than once a week**
The amount of water used by a sprinkler in 30 minutes is equal to the daily water needs of a family of four.
- **Water during the coolest part of the day (preferably morning) and never water on windy days**
As much as 30 percent of the water can be lost to evaporation by watering during midday.

*Data Sources – Maryland Department of the Environment and US Geological Survey

Below are a few websites with more helpful water saving tips:

<http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-consume/>

http://eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm

<http://www.americanwater.com/49ways.php>