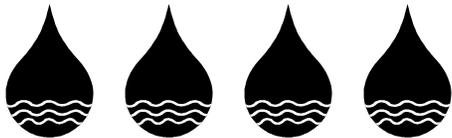


WHY CONSERVE GROUNDWATER?

Most residents in Calumet County get their water from a well that is tapped into an aquifer underground. With increased development come more people, more homes, and more wells tapping into that same aquifer. You may notice you have to lower your pump more frequently, deepen your well, or (in severe cases) drill a new well.

The increase in use of groundwater causes drawdown of the water levels in the aquifer. These aquifers take many years to recharge - or refill - with water. Conserving the amount of water used in your home will help slow the rate of drawdown in our aquifers and allow the aquifer to recover so water will be flowing for years to come.

The following hints and tips can be used to help reduce water usage at your home and promote conservation!



WATERING THE LAWN

- ⇒ Water in early morning or late afternoon to prevent evaporation.
- ⇒ Don't "water" sidewalks, house, driveways, streets, or patios.
- ⇒ Only water lawns when they need water - if you leave footprints in the grass it is time to water.
- ⇒ Set a kitchen timer so you don't forget to turn the hose off.
- ⇒ Aerate your lawn so water soaks into the ground and doesn't run off.

WASHING THE CAR

- ⇒ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- ⇒ Wash your car on the lawn so the water soaks into the ground.
- ⇒ Use a nozzle on the hose or turn the hose off rather than letting the water run.



TURN OFF THE FAUCET

- ⇒ Turn the water off when you brush your teeth, wash your hands or face, shave, and while lathering in the shower.
- ⇒ Wash vegetables in a pan of water.
- ⇒ Don't thaw food under running water.

EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

- ⇒ Wash clothes on the appropriate load and cycle settings.
- ⇒ Only run the dishwasher when it is full.
- ⇒ With newer dishwashers there is no or little need to rinse the dishes.
- ⇒ Replace old toilets and shower fixtures with more efficient models.



WATER-FRIENDLY GARDENS

- ⇒ Direct downspouts and sub-pumps onto the lawn, to trees, or gardens instead of watering them.
- ⇒ Use compost in gardens to help keep moisture in the soil longer and reduce evaporation.
- ⇒ Plant native species - they are designed for our weather and environment.
- ⇒ Compost items that would be placed in the garbage disposal - compost can be used in the garden and garbage disposals use a lot of water.
- ⇒ Fertilizing promotes plant growth, which increases water consumption - use minimum amounts of fertilizer.

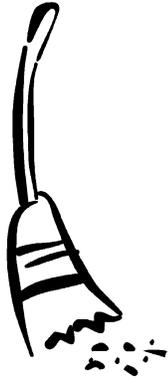


FIND THE LEAKS

- ⇒ Check for and repair leaky faucets, pipes, and hoses indoors and outdoors.
- ⇒ Make sure the toilet flapper doesn't stick.
- ⇒ Use food coloring in your toilet tanks - if it shows up in the bowl there's a leak.

MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING

- ⇒ Sweep driveways, patios, and walkways rather than hosing them off.
- ⇒ Use porous materials such as brick pavers or flagstone for walkways and patios to allow water infiltration.
- ⇒ Ornamental water features and fountains that spray use more water than ones that trickle or cascade.
- ⇒ Install a rain gauge to measure natural watering from rain events.
- ⇒ Winterize outdoor faucets to prevent pipes from freezing.
- ⇒ Set the mower to a higher setting - this keeps the grass longer that helps prevent evaporation and keeps moisture in the soil.



CONSERVATION TOOLS

- ⇒ Screwdrivers can be used to see how moist the soil is.
- ⇒ Rain gauges measure the amount of water during rainstorms.
- ⇒ Compost helps keep moisture in the ground.
- ⇒ Children are fast learners and can help spread the water conservation word to others.

Water conservation starts at home with you and your family. Try to do one water-saving activity each day to help protect our water and groundwater resources for the future.



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CONSERVING GROUNDWATER



**Hints & tips to
save water at
your home**