

## Water Conservation Ideas

Here at SSHOA, we don't have individual unit water meters. We are recommending ideas for saving water. Taking measures at home to conserve water not only saves you money, it also is of benefit to our Strawberry Square community. The bulk of water saving methods can be achieved with little cost. For example, 75% of water used indoors is in the bathroom, and 25% of this is for the toilet. The average toilet uses 5-7 gallons per flush. We recommend getting a low flush toilet.

There are many ways of conserving water indoors. Here are a few tips to follow in making your home more water efficient:

- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons
- Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Each flush waste 5-7 gallons of water
- Check your toilets for leaks. Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. These items are inexpensive and easy for the homeowner to install.
- Put plastic bottles or a float booster in your toilet tank.
- Take shorter showers instead of using the bath tub. A full bathtub can use 25-70 gallons of water while taking a 5-minute shower uses 10-25 gallons.
- Turn *off* the water tap while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Rinse your razor in the sink.
- Use your dishwasher and clothes washer with only full loads.
- Minimize use of your kitchen sink garbage disposal unit.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge. Running tap water to cool it *off* is wasteful.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean your carport and/or patio.