

Conserving Our Greatest Resource **Protecting Our Groundwater Supply**

Water is a finite resource that needs to be regarded as an exhaustible supply. When we unconsciously run the tap for a cool drink, enjoy a long hot shower, and sprinkle our lawns for hours, we take this valuable resource for granted. Groundwater conservation has become a necessity that demands due diligence from communities, households, and individuals alike.

Being proactive in the protection of groundwater resources is important because full restoration of groundwater quality can be very difficult and costly.

Practical Ideas For Conserving Water At Home

Water efficiency plays an important role protecting water sources and improving water quality. By using water wisely, you can save money and help protect our environment. Try these simple tips at home :

1. *Brushing your teeth.* Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. You conserve up to 9 gallons of water per brushing.
2. *In the bathroom.* Toilets use 5-7 gallons with each flush. Install a displacement device to conserve water. This is as simple as placing a plastic bottle filled with water in the tank. This will conserve 1-2 gallons per flush.
3. *Leaks.* Check for leaks and fix them immediately. A small leak can waste a lot of water and cost you money.
4. *Dishwasher and washing machines.* Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
5. *Showers.* Take a short shower instead of a bath; this can save up to 15 gallons with each washing.
6. *Drinking water.* Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap until the water is cold. This simple step saves roughly 2 gallons per glass.
7. *Appliances.* Install water efficient showerheads and appliances.
8. *Watering plants.* Collect water used to rinse produce or rainwater and use it to water house plants.
9. *Garbage disposal.* Use the garbage disposal sparingly, compost instead.