

Keep Water and Money From Going Down the Drain

In 1732, Thomas Fuller said, “We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.”

Today, Americans use an average of 40 billion gallons of water every day. Around the house, up to 70% of that is used on landscapes. Saving water outside the home is as important as saving water inside the home.

- **Garden hose nozzles.** The spray from a garden hose nozzle can be directed to plants or shrubs that need more water. When you wash your car, use a hose nozzle to turn off the water to save more than 100 gallons.
- **Brooms.** Clean your driveway or sidewalk between rain showers with a broom. Sweep the dirt and spread it over your lawn or put it in the garbage to keep it from entering the stormwater catch basins.
- **Sprinkler timers.** A sprinkler timer can be set to shut off your sprinkler after a set period.
- **Screwdriver.** Use a long screwdriver as a probe to test soil moisture. If you can easily push it several inches into your lawn, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of dollars annually.
- **Sprinklers.** Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before hitting the ground.
- **Rain gauge.** Let Mother Nature water for you. A rain gauge is a low-cost, reliable device that measures the water your lawn gets from rainfall. If you receive an inch or more within a week, skip your next watering.
- **Shut-off device.** Nothing wastes water like sprinklers in the rain. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- **Soil aerator.** This inexpensive tool punches holes in your lawn about 6 inches apart. Water reaches the roots rather than running off the surface.
- **Rain barrels.** Put water from your downspout to good use by catching it in a mosquito-proof rain barrel. Plants love rainwater because it doesn't contain chlorine and is warmer than tap water. Plus, using rainwater can help you save water and money on your water bill.
 - **Gutter diverters.** A gutter diverter is designed to work with a rain gutter downspout. It has a switch that diverts the water to the landscape or to the rain barrel.
 - **Rain chains.** Rain chains replace a downspout and channel water into a specific location, such as a basin or a rain barrel. They are pleasing to look at and slow down water, which reduces splashing and erosion.
 - **Wind.** Don't water your lawn on windy days. Sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
 - **Compost.** Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost fruit and vegetable scraps to save gallons of water from running the disposal.
 - **Hose bibs.** Hose bibs are the faucets on the outside of your home where you connect your garden hoses. Don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.
 - **Hose washers.** Replacing a hose washer often can fix your leaky garden hose connection.
 - **Toilet flappers.** Flappers deteriorate. They should be checked every year to make sure they fit tightly over the flush tube. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It is easy to fix, and can save more than 600 gallons a month.
 - **Faucets.** Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive and can save 140 gallons a week. ■



For more water conservation tips, check out www.wateruseitwisely.com.



Protect the SOURCE

Drinking Water Week | May 5–11, 2019

**We depend on our drinking water supply daily –
But where does that water come from?**

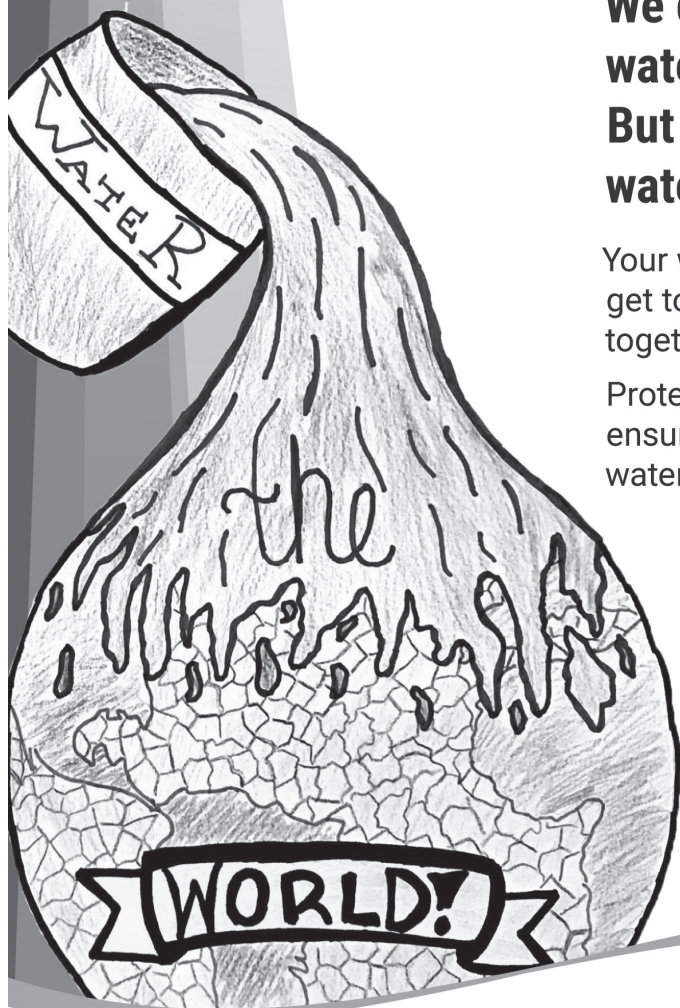
Your water provider encourages you to get to know your local water source, so together, we can protect and preserve it.

Protecting our water source now ensures we have a sustainable drinking water supply for the future.

Visit DrinkTap.org or contact your local water provider.

Celebrate Drinking Water Week at the Klickitat PUD Open House at the Goldendale and White Salmon offices on Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Illustrated by Jackson Lee



American Water Works Association

#DrinkingWaterWeek



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