

# Don't Rinse Money Down the Drain

*Water-conservation tips can save you gallons—and dollars—throughout the year*

On average, Americans use 40 billion gallons of water every day. Around the house, up to 70 percent 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 the plants or shrubs that need more water. When you wash your car, use a hose nozzle to turn off the water and 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 to keep it from entering the storm sewer 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 soil probe to test soil moisture. If you can push it easily into your lawn for several inches, don't water.

- **Sprinklers.** Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before they hit 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.** 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 the water from your downspout to good use by catching it in a mosquito-proof rain barrel. Plants



General Manager Jim Smith, left, and customer Elisa Troutman take a moment from their discussion at the PUD open house to pose for a photo.

## Safety Open House

Klickitat PUD celebrated National Safe Drinking Water Week and Electrical Safety Month with an open house at its offices May 11.

Customers took the opportunity to stop by the PUD to pick up information and get answers to questions about conservation, electrical safety, water and wastewater services, and on current and upcoming projects—and maybe to pick up a cookie or two.

love rainwater because it doesn't contain chlorine and is warmer than tap water.

- **Gutter diverters.** A gutter diverter is designed to work with a rain gutter down spout. 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, reducing 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.

- **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 leaking garden hose connection.

- **Toilet flappers.** Flappers deteriorate, so they need to 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 <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>.

## Water Quality Report

If you are on a community water system operated by Klickitat PUD, watch for your annual water quality report that is mailed to you early this month. This Consumer Confidence Report summarizes the information about your water system and how it complies with state regulations. The information also is available on the KPUD website: [www.klickitatpud.com/yourPUD/safety/waterWasteWater-Safety.aspx](http://www.klickitatpud.com/yourPUD/safety/waterWasteWater-Safety.aspx). ■