

Don't Rinse Money Down the Drain

On average, Americans use 40 billion gallons of fresh water every day. Around the house, up to 70 percent of that water is used on landscaping. That is why 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 or put it in the garbage 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, do not 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 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.** Nothing wastes water like sprinklers in the rain. Install a rain shut-off device on 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 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, 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 instead and save gallons of water.

- **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 is simple, inexpensive and can save 140 gallons a week.

Check out www.wateruseitwisely.com for more water conservation tips. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

- 2—Annual performance by Stevenson High School band, downtown Stevenson
- 5-7—Bluegrass PickerFest, Ekone Park, Goldendale
- 6—Klickitat High School graduation, Klickitat
- 6—Columbia High School graduation, White Salmon
- 6—Glenwood High School graduation, 2 p.m., Glenwood
- 6—Grand Floral Parade, 10 a.m., Moda Center, Portland
- 6—National Trails Day at Bonneville Dam; guided walk along historic Fort Cascade trail near Bonneville Dam's Washington Shore Visitors Center
- 7—Bickleton High School graduation, Bickleton
- 8—Klickitat County 4-H sheep/goat weigh-in, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Klickitat County Fairgrounds
- 9—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 12—Trout Lake High School graduation, Trout Lake
- 12—Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival, Sacajawea State Park, Pasco
- 12-14—Alder Creek pioneer picnic and NPRA rodeo, Bickleton
- 19-20—13+ Miles of Yard Sales, Klickitat County
- 20—GoldenMan triathlon, Goldendale
- 20—9th annual historic Columbia River Highway bike ride, www.gorgeride.com
- 20-21—Ranch sorting and team penning, Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 20-21—Ketchum Kalf NPRA Rodeo, Glenwood
- 21—Father's Day
- 23—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 24-28—Maryhill Festival of Speed
- 25-26—Gorge WindFest, Hood River
- 26-27—Gorge Blues and Brews Festival, Stevenson
- 26-28—Sternwheeler Days; for details call (541) 374-8619
- 27—Jason Aldean and Kenny Chesney in Concert at CenturyLink Field, Seattle
- 27—Mount Adams Country Bicycle Tour, 2 p.m., Trout Lake School
- 27—What the Sam Hill?—Maryhill
- 28—Mount Adams country bicycle tour, noon, Trout Lake School

JULY 2015

- 3-5—Community Days, Goldendale
- 4—Community Days parade, downtown Goldendale
- 4—Demolition derby, Klickitat County Fairgrounds
- 4—Parade and 1K micro-marathon, downtown Husum
- 4—Parade and band concert, 1-5 p.m., White Salmon