### How to Save Water

**IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY**

- Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water instead of letting the faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- Use a dishpan or plug the sink when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Install a low-flow aerator on all faucets.
- Don’t pre-rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher— it’s unnecessary and wasteful.
- Fully load the washing machine and dishwasher before operating.
- Use the proper water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Consider water consumption as well as energy efficiency when purchasing a washing machine or dishwasher. *(Most manufacturers provide this information to consumers.)*

**OUTSIDE OF THE HOME**

The following water-saving measures should be practiced regularly, but remember, during mandatory water use restrictions, all water use outside the home is prohibited!

- Use a broom—not a hose to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- Use water from a bucket to wash the car.
- Control the water flow on a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day. Do not water on windy days.
- Set sprinklers to only water the lawn or garden. Do not water the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation by 20 to 50 percent.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and to cut down on weed growth.
- Use native plants in landscaping—they require less care and water than the ornamental varieties.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

- Encourage community-based service organizations such as service clubs and scout or church youth groups to start a water conservation program. Water conservation is stewardship of our natural resources.
- Encourage large water-using facilities such as schools, health clubs, motels and others to use water conservation devices.
- Encourage use of drought tolerant vegetation in outdoor landscaping at large facilities and community sites.
- Survey water users in large water-using facilities and develop plans to reduce water use.
- Retrofit older buildings and facilities with water-efficient plumbing fixtures.

**Do not block registers with draperies and furniture.**

- Check the watts of incandescent light bulbs. Often, lower wattage bulbs that provide more light and use the same amount of energy can be substituted.
- Check the lumens of a bulb instead of the watts. Lumens tell the brightness of the bulb, watts tell the amount of power it takes to make the bulb work.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Place floor, table and wall lamps in corners rather than against flat walls. Lamps in corners reflect light from two wall surfaces instead of just one and provide more useful light.
- Use long-life bulbs only when it is advantageous, such as in hard-to-reach places. They provide less light than standard incandescent bulbs of the same wattage.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Install a programmable thermostat to keep your house comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher’s drying cycle.
- Turn off computers and monitors when not in use.
- Use power strips to plug-in home electronics (TVs, DVD players, etc.). Turn the power strip off when equipment is not in use. *(Electronics in standby mode still use several watts of power.)*

**There are many steps you can take right now to save energy and cut down on costs at home.**

- Lower the water heater thermostat to 120°F.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Only wash full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Look for the Energy Star label on appliances—these products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Close the curtains! *(Or mini-blinds & shutters)* They keep out the summer’s heat. Open shades during winter months to let in the warm sunshine. For extra shade, plant plenty of trees and shrubs.
- Decide what you want before opening the fridge. Frequently opening and closing the refrigerator door can increase the electric bill.
- Clean the condenser coils underneath or behind the refrigerator every six months.
- Change or clean heating and air conditioning filters monthly. Dirty filters put unnecessary strain on the unit and can increase operating costs.
- Check air handler and ductwork for leaks; weather-strip or caulk around windows, doors, plumbing and other gaps so that warmed or cooled air won’t escape.

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