



Las Campanas Water Cooperative

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2019 WINTER | CONSERVATION BULLETIN

Residential Inside Water Usage

You know the drill. Water is scarce and expensive, so it shouldn't be wasted.

You don't let leaky faucets drip, you don't take half-hour showers, and you know that jigglng the handle is not a good substitute for fixing the toilet, so it doesn't run for hours at a time when you flush in a rush to get out the door.

OK, that was easy. But we're not quite done with indoor water conservation. This is Las Campanas, so we need to do more than the minimum. Water conservation isn't just about saving money by saving water. It's also about assuring that there is water a year and a decade from now. Water conservation is a community as well as a personal endeavor.

The following are some of the less-obvious ways you can garner gallons of water savings inside the walls of your home. Many of them will even be easier to implement as Eye on Water rolls out to everyone. This remarkable and intuitive tool, available to all Las Campanas residents at no cost, lets you literally see when and how you are using water on an hour-by-hour basis. It's far more than just an early warning system for leaks. Eye on Water lets you fine tune your water usage and gain real insight into how much it "costs" in gallons to flush, brush, or wash the car (or dog).

Faucet Aerobics—Scrub-a-dub-dub. In the minute or two (or five) you're scrubbing that pot, is the water running? Why? How about the 30 seconds after you rinse off two dishes and then are putting them in the dishwasher? Turn the water off while you scrub, load,

answer the phone, peel carrots, or otherwise are not using the water that's coming out of the tap. Washing your hands? Wet them, turn off the water, rub and scrub, then turn the water back on to rinse. The elbow exercise will do you good, and the water savings will benefit everyone.

Educate Your Guests—Eye on Water will show you many things, including the water cost of having family and friends visit. You want to be a good host and make your guests feel at home, of course, but keep in mind that their home might be located where it rains 50 inches a year, so a half-hour shower is standard for them. It is not bad manners to explain that the Southwest is a desert environment with low and somewhat undependable rainfall, and that water conservation is a way of respecting the ecosystem they're in and assuring themselves of a place to visit in the future.

Recirculate—Did you know that the CC&Rs require every home in Las Campanas to have a hot water recirculating pump? In addition to being a nice convenience that makes hot water appear almost instantly at any tap, such a pump keeps you from pouring gallons of cold water down the drain while waiting for the hot

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water to make its way from some distant port of entry so you can wash off the spoon with which you stirred your morning coffee. If your home doesn't have a recirculating pump, or yours died a decade ago and was never repaired/replaced, get one. Today.

Brush—Another old-habits-die-hard tendency is to turn on the water, wet the toothbrush (water's still running), carefully give each tooth the attention it deserves (water's still running) in all four quadrants (water's still running), then rinse (water's still running), then maybe mouthwash (water's still running), then rinse again (water's still running), then rinse the toothbrush (water's still running), then finally turn off the water. See what you can do to do it differently. Water savings can amount to 25 gallons or more a month, per person.

Toilet Tango—Take a look at your toilet. No, inside the bowl. Old? Worn? Leaking (detected or not)? Discolored? Installed right after indoor plumbing became a thing? Did you know that state-of-the-art toilets now do an excellent waste disposal job on just 1.28 gallons/-flush, thanks to better finishes and better engineering? Technology marches on, and maybe it's time that your old toilets did, too.

Fill 'Em Up—Try to fill your dishwasher or washing machine before hitting that "on" button. Over the course of a year it can make a huge difference in how much water you've used. These two devices are both major water users.

Watch Your Water—For one day, focus on every drop of

water that's going down the drain and ask yourself if there is an alternative. Perhaps you could shave with an electric razor and save the blade for special occasions? Maybe a bowl of water would let you rinse all the veggies for dinner, instead of giving each a bath from the constantly-running tap? And perhaps that bowl of not-really-dirty water could then be used to water the houseplants instead of going down the drain?

Use Eye on Water—Isn't it worth a minute a day to be a water conserving good neighbor? Install the Eye on Water app* and take a minute to review each day's usage. Is it consistent with what you expect? Are there signs of a leak? Did the arrival of a guest double your consumption overnight? In no time you will have a sense of your home's water rhythm by day, week, and season and you will quickly notice anything that doesn't seem right. And if it doesn't seem right, it probably isn't right. A little leak can become a big deal. Ask questions, ask for help, and act immediately.

**Eye on Water is being implemented across the Las Campanas community with completion scheduled for mid-March. Please sign up when you receive the notification that the service is available in your Estate. Note: Residents of Estates I and II will not be able to access this service as their water is supplied by the County.*

Water is a shared and precious resource in the Southwest. If not used wisely, it's a resource that even money won't be able to buy. If we cooperate as a community to conserve water, we will enjoy the beauty and bounty of living in Las Campanas far into the future.