



The Flow

Springfield Water & Sewer
Commission

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More Information

603 West Main Street
Springfield, KY 40069
(859)336-5454

service@springfieldwater.org
www.springfieldwater.org

WATER EFFICIENCY - PART II

Freshwater is a limited resource, and with growing populations and increasing demand, it's more important than ever to use it wisely. To meet future needs, both households and water providers must adopt smart water efficiency practices. This includes using water-saving technologies, conserving water at home, and developing strategies that respond to changing water availability and quality.

When tanks are drained or filters backwashed, the water and sludge flow to the outside lagoon that is located at the treatment plant. Typically, a sludge removal process happens weekly and that sends up to 94,000 gallons to the lagoons.

Faucet Leaks

- Old and worn faucet washers and gaskets frequently cause leaks in faucets. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers!

Showerhead Leaks

- A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's the amount of water it takes to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher. Some leaky showerheads can be fixed by making sure there is a tight connection between the showerhead and the pipe stem and by using pipe tape to secure it. Pipe tape, also called Teflon tape, is available at most hardware stores, is easy to apply, and can help control leaks. For more complicated valve leaks in showers that drip when not in use, contact an experienced handyperson or licensed plumber.

Outdoor Leaks

- If you have an in-ground irrigation system, check it each spring before use to make sure it wasn't damaged by frost or freezing. An irrigation system that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.



WATERSENSE LABEL

Be on the lookout for this label when shopping for water efficient products. This label identifies a water-efficient product that has been independently certified to meet EPA WaterSense criteria for efficiency and performance.



Products bearing the WaterSense label:

- Perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts.
- Are 20 percent more water efficient than average products in that category.
- Realize water savings on a national level.
- Provide measurable water savings results.
- Achieve water efficiency through several technology options.

It's never too early
to learn about
conservation!

Get your kids involved
and teach them simple
ways to save water.

EFFICIENT & HIGH QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water (like what's in the ocean) or is locked away in glaciers and polar ice caps—meaning we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

That's why every drop counts. As the demand for clean water grows due to population increases, climate change, and pollution, conserving and using water efficiently at home is more important than ever. Simple changes in our daily routines can help protect this precious resource for future generations.



SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER

There are many simple things we can do to save water. Learn from the water-efficiency hero Flo what you can do today to help protect our water supply!

Turn off the Tap!

Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save as much as 4 to 8 gallons of water! That could add up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds 6 small sharks! The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash—then put them in the dishwasher.

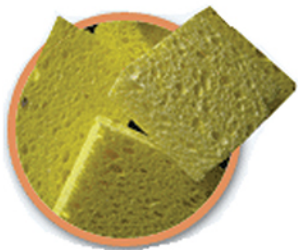


Shower Power!

Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long—try timing yourself with a clock next time you hop in!

Shower Power!

Watering your yard first thing in the morning is a great first step to water-efficient landscaping. Avoid watering your yard in the middle of the day. Watering when it's hot and sunny is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it. Also, when you're helping your parents water the yard, make sure not to water the plants too much—remember that a little sprinkle goes a long way!



Who Needs a Hose?

An easy way to save water is to use a bucket and sponge when washing cars and bikes. Washing your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons! Also, some car washes recycle water instead of letting it run down the sewer drains. Ask your parents to check if a car wash near you recycles water.



Serving the cities of Springfield, Mackville, Willisburg and surrounding communities since 1951.

SPRINGFIELD WATER & SEWER COMMISSION