

# SAVE WATER and YOUR MONEY

**Easy Guide for  
Checking Your  
Water Usage**

**VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW**  
*Steven M. Landek, President*

# Water Conservation Tips

- There are a number of ways to save water, and they all begin with you.
- Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save you gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe breaks.



## INDOORS

- Keep a pitcher of water in your refrigerator instead of running tap water for cold drinks.
- Insulate hot water pipes, so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water, the other with rinse water.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1000 gallons a month.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.
- Listen for leaking faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.

## OUTDOORS

- Water lawns in the evening or at night. Day time watering evaporates and wastes water.
- Install covers on pools and spas. Check for leaks around your pumps.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip to 20°F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.



# Locating Water Leaks

- Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
- To begin checking your water meter reading, it's suggested that the last person to bed at night takes a meter reading, then the first person up in the morning takes another reading. The numbers should be the same. If not and no one was up during the night flushing a toilet, then there was water flowing through the meter from somewhere, indicating a leak.
- **Leaking toilets** are the main cause of unaccountable water usage. Customers do not realize how much water can be lost with a running toilet. Some toilets have what is referred to as a "silent leak." We recommend you put a few drops of **yellow** food coloring in the toilet tank. *Do not use a different color as it will sometimes stain the porcelain.* Do **NOT** flush! If the bowl water turns yellow, the tank is leaking and the parts in the toilet tank that seal after flushing must be replaced.

- Another way to verify leaks is to **check the water meter head**. There is a leak detector on all meter heads. It's a small red propeller that spins only when the water is flowing through the meter. If there is no visible water running and the propeller is spinning, this indicates there is a leak somewhere in the system.



For problems with your water bill, water meter or to report water main breaks, during regular business hours contact

Village of Bridgeview Water Department  
708-594-2525



FOR WATER MAIN BREAKS AFTER REGULAR HOURS,  
call the Bridgeview Police Department - 458-2131

# WATER WISDOM

MATCH THE WATER SAVING TIP...

...TO THE AMOUNT OF WATER SAVED

1. USE A HOSE NOZZLE  
AND TURN OFF THE WATER  
WHILE YOU WASH YOUR CAR OR  
BIKE AND ...  
SAVE THIS MUCH WATER \_\_\_\_\_.



3. IF YOU TURN OFF  
THE SHOWER WHILE  
YOU SHAMPOO,  
HOW MANY  
GALLONS  
WILL YOU SAVE? \_\_\_\_\_.



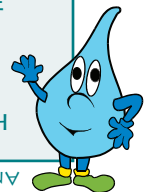
2. YOU'LL SAVE THIS  
MUCH WATER \_\_\_\_\_  
IF YOU TIME YOUR  
SHOWER TO KEEP IT  
UNDER 5 MINUTES.

4. TURN OFF THE WATER  
WHILE YOU BRUSH  
YOUR TEETH AND  
YOU'LL KEEP THIS  
MUCH WATER \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM GOING  
DOWN THE DRAIN.



5. USE A BROOM INSTEAD OF A HOSE TO  
WASH OFF DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS  
AND SAVE THIS MUCH WATER \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. MORE THAN 50 GALLONS A WEEK
- B. UP TO 80 GALLONS EVERY TIME
- C. 4 GALLONS EVERY MINUTE
- D. MORE THAN 100 GALLONS
- E. UP TO 1000 GALLONS A MONTH



ANSWERS: 1-D, 2-E, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B

For Questions or Problems contact

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW

(708) 594-2525

7500 S. Oketo Ave  
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