

# Water for all... for ALWAYS



*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

This new education program, launched in May 2008, strives to answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Town of Olds water and wastewater systems, water conservation, water use, water meters and billing, and other topics about water.

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## ***What are the biggest water-wasters?***

- ♦ The average Canadian uses 326 litres of water per day; this amount increases to 440 litres per day during the summer months.
- ♦ Undetected leaks of all kinds can easily double your water bill or much worse in 30 days. In an average household, 30% of water is used for toilet flushing, 35% is used for showers/baths, 20% for laundry, 10% for cooking and drinking, 5% for cleaning.
- ♦ Toilets are notorious for hidden or silent leaks, because leaks are seldom noticed unless the toilet “runs” after each flush. Check your toilets for leaks regularly. Replace old, inefficient or leaky toilets with HET (High Efficiency Toilets), Low-flush or Dual-flush toilets. Take advantage of the Town of Olds Toilet Replacement Program. Go to [www.olds.ca/pubworks/toilet.html](http://www.olds.ca/pubworks/toilet.html) for info.
- ♦ Outdoor Hoses. A thirsty garden uses a lot of water. The average garden hose has an output of 35 litres per minute. At this rate, running a hose or sprinkler for half-an-hour uses 1050 litres of water. Plus, if you accidentally leave your hose dribbling or dripping, you can waste an astounding amount of water. The Town of Olds has Rain Barrels for sale that will hold and store 175 litres of rainwater.
- ♦ Long Showers and high-flow faucets / showerheads. A 10-minute shower uses an average of 100 litres of water. Low-flow showerheads and faucets may reduce your usage in these areas by half.

## ***How can I reduce my water usage?***

It's easy to find small ways around the house to reduce unnecessary water usage.

- ♦ Turn off the tap or reduce its flow when you are not actively using water to brush your teeth, wash your face or hands, or to rinse off soapy dishes. For a family, this small act will reduce your water usage by about 31 litres per day.
- ♦ Installing HET, low-flush or dual-flush toilets will reduce water use by up to 63 litres per person per day.
- ♦ Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are fully loaded, reducing usage by around 132 litres of water a week.
- ♦ Installing low-flow shower heads and having shorter showers will reduce this usage by up to 50 litres per 10-minute shower.
- ♦ Get yourself a rain barrel or two to capture rainwater for use in the garden. The Town of Olds sells rain barrels for \$50, but any type of barrel will also work fine.

## ***Next issue...***

Ways to reduce your Outdoor water usage

For more information visit the **Olds Sustainable Living** page at [www.olds.ca](http://www.olds.ca)