

General Water Facts

- Of all the earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans and seas.
- Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. Two percent is currently frozen.
- About two-thirds of the human body is water. Some parts of the body contain more water than others. For example, 70% of your skin is water.
- Typically, households consume at least 50% of their water by lawn sprinkling. Inside, toilets use the most water, with an average of 27 gallons per person, per day.
- More than 13 million households get their water from their own private wells and are responsible for treating and pumping the water themselves.
- You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
- The average 5-minute shower takes between 15 to 25 gallons of water.
- A person should consume 2½ quarts of water per day to maintain health.

For more information about water conservation, contact **Brad Powers**, the General Manager at Blue Ridge Rural Water Company, Inc., by e-mail at brad@brrwc.org or by phone at **864-895-1719**.

Valued Blue Ridge Rural Water Company Customer:

For the past several years, the Upstate and surrounding areas have experienced less than average rainfall. This inadequate amount of rainfall has impacted the lakes, rivers, streams and wells in the area. On June 30, 2008, the South Carolina Drought Response Committee declared the Upstate of South Carolina to be in an "Extreme Drought," the highest drought level allowed by the state. The Blue Ridge Rural Water Company (BRRWC) continues to work with our suppliers to monitor all the water levels to ensure adequate supply to you, our customer.

In an effort to use water wisely, the BRRWC has included this pamphlet to provide you with water facts and useful conservation tips that you can implement. This request to conserve is voluntary, but can greatly benefit all BRRWC customers.

Thank you for your help in conserving water.

Sincerely,
Brad Powers
GM/COO
Blue Ridge Rural Water Co., Inc.

Water Costs Money...Don't Waste It!

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day...a total of 1,095 gallons a year!

Diameter of stream water wasted in 90 days at an average of 60 psi water pressure:

- A 1/4" stream / diameter hole can waste 1,181,500 gallons of water.
- A 3/16" stream / diameter hole can waste 666,000 gallons of water.
- A 1/8" stream / diameter hole can waste 296,000 gallons of water.
- A 1/16" stream / diameter hole can waste 74,000 gallons of water.

Help Conserve Blue Ridge's Water



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Water Conservation Tips

Voluntary Water Restrictions

Blue Ridge Rural Water Company (BRRWC) needs your help in reducing water consumption. At this time, BRRWC is asking you to limit non-essential water usage. If this extreme drought continues, mandatory restrictions could be required. The following are some of the non-essential water uses that are being limited or eliminated with this voluntary water reduction request.

- Reduce residential water use to 65 gallons per person, per day and a maximum of 200 gallons per household, per day.
- Eliminate the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard-surfaced areas.
- Eliminate the washing down of buildings for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
- Eliminate the flushing of gutters.
- Eliminate the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life.
- Reduce the amount of water obtained from fire hydrants for construction purposes, for fire drills or for any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality.
- Reduce the watering of lawns, plants, trees, gardens and shrubbery on private or public property to the minimum amount necessary. Require outdoor watering to be done during off-peak hours (8 p.m.-6 a.m.).

INDOOR

Check your toilet for leaks- Put two drops of food coloring into your toilet tank. Without flushing, watch the tank for about 3-5 minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak that should be fixed immediately.

Take shorter showers- Long, hot showers can waste 5 to 10 gallons of water per unnecessary minute.

Take baths- An average tub holds more than 50 gallons of water. A bath in a partially-filled tub – about 5 inches is plenty – uses much less water.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks- Even a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it, and you save almost 6,000 gallons a year.

Turn off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth- This can save 3 to 7 gallons per minute. Just wet your brush, and fill a glass for rinsing.

Use your automatic dishwasher for full loads only- The washer uses the same amount of water whether it is full or empty, so be sure to fill it.

If you wash your dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing- If you have a two-sided sink, fill one side with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single sink, try using a pan of hot rinse water or a spraying device.

Keep a pitcher or bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator- Letting the water run until it cools down enough wastes 3 to 7 gallons per minute.

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket- Every time you flush a small bit of trash, you waste 5 to 7 gallons of water.

Check the entire water system in your home for leaks- Check the reading on your water meter at night when water usage has ended for the day. Check the reading again in the morning before water usage begins for the day. If the number has increased, you have a leak.



OUTDOOR

Don't overwater your lawn- An average of one inch of water per week is enough to replenish most grass. Apply moderate amounts of water to create a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn. Water the root zone, then let soil dry to encourage healthy, deep root growth.

Water during the cool parts of the day- Watering during the heat of the day can actually harm your lawn by “scalding” or “burning” it. Early morning generally is better than dusk since it helps prevent growth of fungus.

Don't water the pavement- Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not in areas where it is not needed. Also, avoid watering when it is windy. Wind causes water to evaporate quickly and blows water onto areas where it is not needed. Remember, if it doesn't grow, don't water it.

Mow higher than normal- Longer leaf surfaces promote deeper rooting and shade the root zone. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in one mowing. Return mulched clippings to the lawn.

Use a broom to clean the driveway and sidewalk- Sweeping the driveway and sidewalk will get them clean enough without wasting gallons of water.

Check for leaks in pipes, hoses and faucets- Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside the house. Check frequently, and keep them drip-free.

Don't run the hose while washing your car- Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Just use the hose to rinse it off.

Cover your swimming pool- Covering a swimming pool will help reduce evaporation. An average-sized pool can use about 1,000 gallons of water per month if left uncovered. A pool cover can cut the loss by up to 90%.

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants- Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth too.

Inspect your current sprinkler system for leaks or over watering- If you are looking into installing a sprinkler system, design your landscape for water conservation. Ask your landscaper how you can conserve water while enhancing the beauty of your lawn.