

- In 1986, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) customers used a total of 330 million gallons of water per day.
- Thanks to every-day water conservation efforts, demand has been reduced to 220 million gallons per day (in 2007). Saving water keeps supplies level and has helped residents control their water, sewer and energy costs.
- Commodore Builders is committed to "going green" in the workplace. Below are some easy ways for us to continue these efforts at home!

## June 2008 Topic:

## Water Conservation at Home

Keeping an adequate supply of high-quality water flowing from taps and disposing of wastewater requires considerable effort and expense. The less we use, the less effort and expense is required to supply us with water. The smaller the volume of wastewater produced, the less it costs to treat it. Where sewage treatment plants are already overloaded, this reduction would lessen pollution by improving waste treatment. Less energy use also means reduced air pollution and lower water heating bills. With today's high cost for water, sewer service, and energy; conservation through efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances can result in significant homeowner savings.

For additional information go to: <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/uh164.pdf>,  
<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/comsupport/conservation/hometips.htm> or [http://www.eartheasy.com/live\\_water\\_saving.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm)

### In the Bathroom

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving: save 4-10 gallons a day.
- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray: save 2-7 gallons per flush.
- Take shorter showers, five minutes will get you clean: save 3-7 gallons per shower.
- For older toilets, put plastic bottles or a float booster in your toilet tank: save 10 or more gallons per day.



### Outside

- Don't run the hose while washing your car. Clean the car with a sponge using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose only for rinsing. This could save as much as 150 gallons of water.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering.
- Deep soak your lawn. When watering the lawn, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots. Do it early in the day to reduce water loss due to evaporation. Don't water on windy days.
- Don't water the sidewalk or gutters. Position sprinklers so that water lands only on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.
- Install rain barrels (<http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>) at the base of gutter downspouts to collect water for watering flowers and shrubs.



### In the Kitchen and Laundry Room

- While washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running. Use a wash/rinse basin or install a faucet aerator with a quick shut-off valve.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a pan of clean water.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking is wasteful.
- Use the dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads. With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle which uses an added 5 gallons for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust the water level to match the size of the load.



### Check for Leaks!

- Read the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak somewhere. Investigate!
- For toilets, put a little food coloring in the toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that needs repair. Most replacement parts (valves, flappers) or inexpensive and easy to install.

For further information or suggestions please email Commodore's Green Building Committee at [greenbuildingcommittee@commodorebuilders.com](mailto:greenbuildingcommittee@commodorebuilders.com).