

## Water Conservation Tips

The Fripp Island Public Service District encourages you to take steps to reduce water usage in and around your home. Conservation efforts by each individual play a direct role in protecting and preserving one of our most valuable natural resources—our water supply. Here are some simple things you can do to conserve water:

### Inside your home:

- Check your toilets for leaks. Put a couple of drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, but do not flush. Wait at least 10 to 15 minutes and check the toilet bowl. If coloring has entered the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired as soon as possible.
- Take shorter showers. Long showers can waste as much as 10 gallons of water each minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to lather, wash, and rinse.
- Don't leave the water running while you are brushing your teeth or shaving. Did you know that you can use 2 or more gallons of water per brush or shave if you let the water run?
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you won't have to run the tap water until it gets cold.
- Use your dishwasher and washing machine for full loads only. If you don't use a dishwasher, use both sides of the sink for washing dishes—use one side to wash, and the other to rinse.
- Don't let your faucet run while washing dishes or cleaning vegetables or fruits.
- Replace five-gallon-per-flush toilets with 1.9 gallon-per-flush models. This could save an average of 18,000 gallons of water each year.
- Check your faucets for drips and pipes for leaks. Install new washers on dripping faucets, and repair any leaking fittings or pipes as soon as possible.
- Install water flow restricting valves and shower heads. This alone can reduce your water use by as much as 50%.
- Check your hot water heater and piping to and from it for signs of wear, damage and/or rust. A damaged water heater or pipe can cost a large amount of money, both in water bills, and in damage to your home.
- Never pour water down the drain when it can be used for something else, such as watering plants or cleaning around your home.

### Outside your home:

- When landscaping your yard, plant drought-resistant trees and plants. There are many beautiful plants that are native to the area and require less water to flourish. If you have an irrigation system installed, use the type of head that mists instead of sprinkling. This may initially cost more, but will save both dollars and water in the long run.
- Water lawns and plants early in the morning, or in the evening when there is less evaporation.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it, and no more than three days per week. Adjust your sprinklers so the water flows on your lawn or plants instead of on roads, driveways, or sidewalks. Aerated lawns absorb water better, so request that your landscaper aerate your lawn before the growing season starts.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff toward plants, trees and shrubs in order to make the best use of all water sources.
- Use mulch around trees and plantings to slow evaporation.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps and pool plumbing.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Install a water shutoff valve on the water line between your water meter and your home. This will allow you to turn your water service off when you plan to be away from your home for a long period, reducing the possibility of high water consumption and damage to your home in the event that a pipe cracks or bursts while you are away from home.