

# The Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson

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4200 Campbells Run Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • 15205-1304  
Phone: (412) 923-2411 • Fax: (412) 923-2347

## Water Conservation Tip Sheet

Make conservation a habit by implementing the 20 easy tips below. You'll find many of these steps not only conserve water, but also help you conserve money.

### Indoor Tips:

1. On average, toilets are responsible for 25% of your indoor water use. Installing a high-efficiency certified toilet can create significant water savings.
2. Taking shorter showers can help greatly reduce your household's overall water usage. Consider switching to a low-flow showerhead to save on water. Five minutes in the shower equates to 50 gallons of water down the drain.
3. Run the dishwasher and washing machine when each is at full capacity to save on unnecessary water usage. Doing so can save up to 1,000 gallons of water a month.
4. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. These are more water and energy efficient.
5. Replace and retrofit old faucets with high efficiency ones that will reduce water usage when running the tap.
6. Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons or more a month.
7. Don't leave the water running when brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes.
8. Monitor your water bill for any spikes in usage, your bill and water meter are tools that can help you uncover hidden leaks in your home.
9. Use the leftover water from cooking pasta or vegetables to water indoor plants. You'll be saving water and giving your plants a boost of nutrients.
10. Run your garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons of water each time.

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## Outdoor Tips:

- 1.** Have your sprinkler system professionally checked each year to stay up to date with high efficiency improvements and identify any leaks.
- 2.** Water your lawn between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to avoid evaporation during the heat of the day. Also avoid watering when it's windy. Make sure to set your sprinkler systems to short run times and repeat the cycles in each zone to allow for optimum water absorption.
- 3.** Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system will turn off when it is raining.
- 4.** Change your sprinklers to high-efficiency rotary nozzles for the most effective watering cycle.
- 5.** Use layers of mulch around plants in your yard to reduce water evaporation and promote plant growth.
- 6.** Utilize xeriscaping to reduce overall outdoor water usage. For more information on xeriscaping your property visit: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07234.html> or <http://coloradowaterwise.org/XeriscapeColorado>
- 7.** When planting a garden group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under-watering others.
- 8.** Limit car washing and hosing down paved areas in the peak summer months. Instead, visit a commercial car wash that recycles water. Use a broom to sweep off paved areas.
- 9.** Adjust your lawnmower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- 10.** Allow lawns to go dormant under extreme drought conditions – you can revive it once conditions become more moderate.