

HEALTHY LAWNS AND CONSERVATION

You can have a healthy lawn **AND** reduce water waste at your home. Here are some tips:

- T Water infrequently, but for a longer time. A deep-soak watering promotes healthy plants.
- T Water only when the ground is dry. Over-watering of lawns weakens the plants' root system and makes them more vulnerable to disease and pests.
- T Water in the early morning or late evening on calm (not windy) days. Up to 50% of water is lost to evaporation during a hot, windy afternoon.
- T De-thatch and aerate your lawn and mow to a height of 2-3 inches. These activities promote healthy lawns.
- T Consider xeriscaping or planting native grasses such as blue grama.

SHOULD I WATER?

Here is a simple way to know whether you need to water your lawn:

1. Step on your grass. If it bounces back, you don't need to water. If you need to water...
2. Set out an empty tuna can or container marked at 2.5 cm (1 inch) to measure the amount of water you use. When the container is full, you're finished!

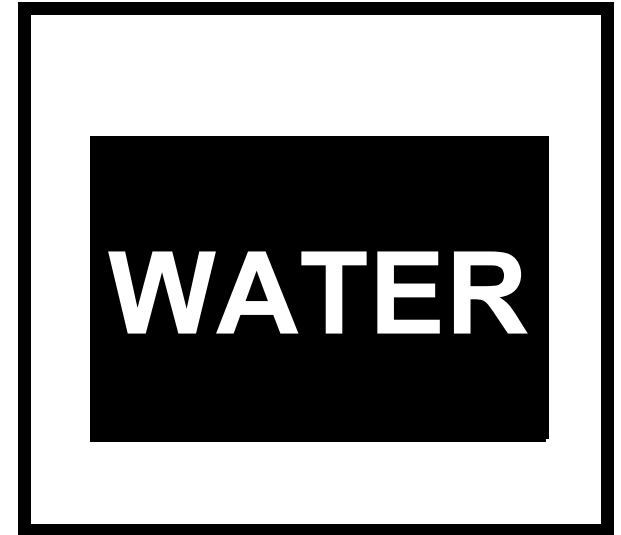
The City of Swift Current Water Conservation Program and The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards are happy to work together to provide information on Summer Water Conservation for City Residents.

K For information on the Water Conservation Program, call 778-2745.

K The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards are a volunteer not-for-profit organization promoting public awareness of water quality and supply issues in the Swift Current Creek Watershed. For information on this group, call 778-5007 or check us out our web site (<http://www.t2.net/sccws>).

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Conservation Information



Reducing Waste...

Prepared By:



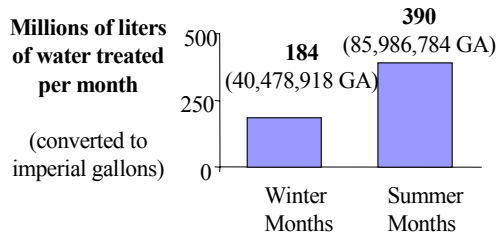
SWIFT CURRENT CREEK
Watershed Stewards



Two-thirds of the

world's surface is covered by water. Of that amount, 97% is salt water and 2% is locked in glaciers, which leaves only 1% for all of our needs including household, community, agricultural and manufacturing uses.

FACT: The amount of water treated per month in the City of Swift Current **DOUBLES** in the summer months compared to the winter months.



Indoor household use is usually the same year-round. Thus, the two-fold increase in water use during the warmer summer weather is related to our outdoor use such as watering our lawns and gardens, washing our cars, playing in the sprinkler, etc.

WHY CONSERVE WATER ?

The biggest benefits to reducing outdoor water waste are that we can:

- (1) make more water available for ourselves and others in the future, and
- (2) save money now and in the future.

SAVING \$\$ NOW

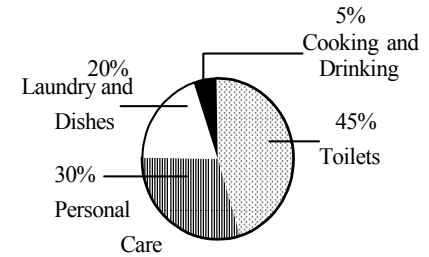
Here is an example of how we could save money *NOW*:

Assume that the price for bottled water is \$4.00 for 20L. At this price, the City would pay \$78,000,000 per month for water in the summer months and only \$36,800,000 per month for water in the winter months. Thus, the potential for savings at this price would be **\$41,200,000 per month!**

\$\$ FUTURE SAVINGS \$\$

All of the water that comes into AND all of the water that leaves our homes is treated as drinking water or sewage. As our demand for water increases, so does the demand for drinking water and sewage treatment. Increasing demands result in the need for larger, more costly water and sewage treatment facilities in the future. Thus, reducing our water needs now also reduces the money we spend on these facilities in the future.

This chart shows average year-round indoor water use. The City Water



Conservation Kits aim to reduce water waste in these areas. However, our household water use doubles in the summer due to outdoor water use. So...

HOW CAN I REDUCE OUTDOOR WATER WASTE?

- K Use a shut-off nozzle on all hoses.
- K Use a bucket of soapy water to wash your car and use the hose only for rinsing.
- K Play with squirt guns and containers of water, rather than using a sprinkler.
- K Clean sidewalks, steps and driveways with a broom rather than a hose.
- K Collect rain water in a barrel or garbage can to use in watering your garden.
- K Drain down spouts onto the lawn rather than draining water onto the driveway.
- K Set sprinklers to water lawn and garden only, don't water sidewalks and streets.

WOW! The amount of water used by a sprinkler in one hour is equal to the daily water needs of a family of four!