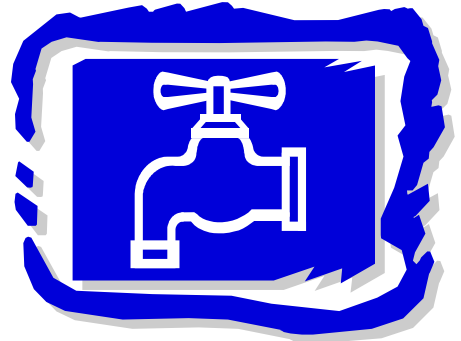


Using Water Wisely at Home

During the hot summer, there's nothing more refreshing than a glass of cold water. We all need water to survive, but healthy freshwater ecosystems also provide lots of natural services that we don't want to live without. Natural water purification, food for plants and animals, areas for recreation, and flood control are services that will be lost without proper management of our freshwater resources.



Water is NOT a renewable resource – the same water the dinosaurs used is still around today in some form. Use these simple tips to conserve water and protect and improve the quality of our streams, rivers, marshes, sounds, and ultimately the ocean:

- Enjoy a cold drink** by keeping a pitcher of water in the refrigerator -- not running the cold-water faucet will get you a cooler drink faster!
- Turn running water off** while washing your hands and brushing your teeth
- Don't** use toilets as trashcans
- Use water-conserving appliances** -- consider switching to ultra-low flow toilets and other water-saving models when replacing older appliances
- Collect rainwater from your gutters** using barrels or containers and use this water for irrigating your garden
- Only wash** cars and other vehicles when **necessary**
- Install faucet aerators** and **high efficiency showerheads**. This can save over 5,400 gallons of water per year!
- Discontinue irrigation** of lawns and ornamental plants; **plant native** and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees
- Implement a water conservation awareness** and outreach program in your neighborhood

Visit the web for more information:

<http://enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/index.html>

http://www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Water_Conservation/

<http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/>

<http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pwdept/water/waterconservation/watertipsmain.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm>

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>

<http://www.h2ouse.org/>

The DENR Sustainability Team is comprised of representatives from 27 DENR divisions, offices and programs. Its mission is "to raise employee awareness of the consequences of our actions and make DENR a model of sustainability." More information on DENR Sustainability is available at <http://www.sustainablenc.org/DENR/>. Information on sustainability in buildings and lands in North Carolina is available on the State Sustainability team 'NC Project Green' web site <http://www.sustainablenc.org/>.