

## Tip of the Week

### Celebrate Earth Day Every Day.... Use Less Water

Week of April 20, 2009

Earth Day is April 22 and is a time to celebrate gains we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. Earth Day and every day is a time to act to protect our planet. Using less water can be achieved by the actions below:

- [Look for the WaterSense label to identify water-efficient products and programs](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm). The WaterSense label indicates that these products and programs meet water-efficiency and performance criteria. WaterSense labeled products will perform well, help save money, and encourage innovation in manufacturing. (<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>)
- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Buy high-efficient plumbing fixtures & appliances.
- Repair all leaks (a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day).
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best).
- Water plants differently according to what they need. Check with your local extension service or nurseries for advice.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Keep your yard healthy - dethatch, use mulch, etc.
- Sweep outside instead of using a hose.
- Learn how to plant trees, build a pond, compost, and more from the [Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard) (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard>).

