

**Green Tips** brought to you by the Mt. St. John Green Team  
([http://meec.udayton.edu/MSJ\\_GreenTeam.asp](http://meec.udayton.edu/MSJ_GreenTeam.asp))

Less than 1% of the earth's water is available for human consumption. Here are 10 ways to use water wisely so we can preserve this life-giving resource;

1. **Never put water down the drain when there may be another use** for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.
2. **Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers.** If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year which will add to the cost of water and sewer utilities, or strain your septic system.
3. **Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank.** If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)
4. **Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.** Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
5. **Take shorter showers.** Replace you showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. Some units are available that allow you to cut off the flow without adjusting the water temperature knobs.
6. **Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face.** Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
7. **Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully** loaded or properly set the water level for the size of load you are using.
8. **When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water.** Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
9. **Store drinking water in the refrigerator** rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
10. **Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.** Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.

For more tips on preparing your home for the change of seasons go to:

<http://www.americanwater.com/49ways.htm>

Go to <http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org> to be a part of the solution.

