

INSIDE WATER CONSERVATION

The average residential water use in Massachusetts is 50-55 gallons per person per day (gpcpd) with a 25-50% increase in the summer months. In Holliston over the last 5 years the average residential use has been 45–50 gpcpd. Domestic water use is allocated as follows:

- Toilets @ 25%
- Clothes washers @ 22%
- Showers @ 17%
- Baths @ 2%
- Faucets @ 16%
- Dishwashers @ 1%
- Leaks @ 16%
- Other @ 1%

However, summer irrigation of lawns can add 25-50% to the daily use during the summer months of May through September. To conserve water the biggest payback is the toilet, clothes washers, and outdoor lawn irrigation.

Toilets: Older toilets can use between 3.5 and 7 gallons per flush (gpf). The new low flush-high efficiency toilets use 1.3-1.5 gpf. Therefore, a new high efficiency toilet could save 15,000 gallons per year over an older 3.5 gpf model. A toilet should not be used as a wastebasket to flush unnecessary material. Toilets can be checked for leaks by putting food coloring in the toilet tank and checking in 10-15 minutes for traces of color in the toilet bowl. Any appearance of color indicates a leak and the flapper valve in the toilet tank needs replaced.

Clothes Washers: Older clothes washers can use 35-50 gallons per load whereas the newer front loading models use less than 15 gallons per load. This conversion could save 10,000 gallons per year on clothes washing. In addition, the newer model will save on hot water and energy. These models also wring out more moisture from the clothes resulting in more efficient drying, decrease wear on clothes, and require less detergent.