

Dear Resident,

Telephone (814) 563-4604
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Happy New Year! We hope your Holiday season was blessed this year!

The Borough is looking ahead regarding the sustainability of our services. The costs of operating and maintaining our systems has increased significantly over the years.

If any of these services would have to be provided by a party other than the Borough, comparison costs increase at least 3 times or more! We appreciate your understanding as we strive to continue to provide the most affordable services to you, our residents.

Water and Sewer

Council deliberated long and hard over how to cover these increasing costs so we can continue to provide these services to you at an affordable rate. In the end, it was agreed to not raise rates on all residents but to have residents pay for the use of the systems. As of January 1, 2025 the minimum water usage will decrease from 9500 gallons to 7000 gallons per quarter. What this means is that if you currently use 7000 gallons or less, you will see no change in your quarterly bill. If you use more than 7000 gallons per quarter, you will see a slight increase depending on how much water is used over the 7000 minimum gallons. That is, the better you conserve water, the lower the overage cost will be on your quarterly bill!

Please find below some helpful hints to start conserving water in your household.

• **Toilets**

Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket

How can we conserve water? Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bit of trash, you're wasting gallons of water. Put them in the garbage, or better yet, recycle.

Put plastic bottles or a float booster in your toilet tank

To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles. Fill the bottles with water, screw the lids on, and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanisms. Or, buy an inexpensive tank bank or float booster. This may save ten or more gallons of water per day. Be sure at least three gallons of water remain in the tank so it will flush properly. If there is not enough water to get a proper flush, users will hold the lever down too long or do multiple flushes to get rid of waste. Two flushes at 1.4 gallons are worse than a single 2-gallon flush.

Buy an adjustable toilet flapper

Installing an adjustable toilet flapper will allow for adjustment of each per flush use; the user can adjust the flush rate to the minimum per flush setting that achieves a single good flush each time.

Install low or dual flush models

Federal regulations state that new toilets must use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush. Replacing an old toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) 1.6-gallon flush model represents a 70% savings in water and will cut indoor water use by

about 30%. Alternatively, consider purchasing a dual flush toilet or installing dual flush converter that turns a standard toilet into a dual flush toilet, saving an average family 15,000 gallons of water each year. More water can be used when it's needed, but for most flushes you'll be using 70% less, adding up to some significant water savings.

- **Laundry**

Use Clothes washer for only full loads

No list of water conservation tips would be complete without considering the laundry room. With clothes washers, avoid the permanent-press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons (20 liters) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load.

Consider a high efficiency washing machine

The most efficient washing machines use as little as seven gallons per load, compared to a whopping 54 for a traditional washer. A high efficiency (HE) washer should easily pay for itself over its lifetime in water and energy savings. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 – 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, read our article about water-saving [frontload washers](#).

- **Shower**

Install water-saving showerheads, timers, and low-flow faucet aerators

When considering ways to save water at home, inexpensive, water-saving, low-flow showerheads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Long showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You can easily install a [ShowerStart](#), which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm.

Take shorter showers

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water. You can also install a simple shower timer, available from your local water utility or hardware store.

Faucets and sinks

Fit household faucets with [Aerators](#)

This easy and effective water saving tip is also the cheapest! A simple [low-flow aerator](#) saves water in the bathroom.

Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Rinse your razor in the sink

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water. Water conservation techniques like this are simple to implement.

Minimize kitchen sink garbage disposal

In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly, and also add considerably to the volume of solids in a septic tank, which can lead to maintenance problems. Start a [compost pile](#) as an alternate method of disposing food waste.

Opt for the dishwasher over hand washing

It may seem counterintuitive, but it turns out washing dishes by hand uses a lot more water than running the dishwasher, even more so if you have a water-conserving model. The EPA estimates an efficient dishwasher uses half as much water, saving close to 5,000 gallons each year.

When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing

If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink,

gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.

Don't let the faucet run while cleaning vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. This is one of many water conservation strategies.

Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge

Looking for more steps to conserve water? Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle. If you are filling water bottles to bring along on outdoor hikes, consider buying a personal water filter, which enables users to drink water safely from rivers or lakes or any available body of water.

- **Leaks**

Check faucets and pipes for leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Some faucet leaks are easily spotted, but others take a little more effort to locate. Dry sinks and tubs thoroughly and allow to sit for an hour. If you notice wetness, you've found a leak. To find leaks from faucet handles, dry the area around them before running water. You'll see water collecting next to them if there's a leak.

Check your toilets for leaks

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks

Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

- **Extending your conservation measures**

Insulate water pipes

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Recycle water


Collect the cold water you run before it's hot enough to shower and use it to water plants or flush the toilet (known as a bucket flush). Rinse water from dishes and food preparation can be collected and used to soak

Sanitation

There will be a minimal rate increase of \$5.00 per quarter to offset increased costs for sanitation. This rate increase still puts our charges well below other area providers.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to a member of Council or myself.

Thank you,


Wendy Wilcox

Borough Manager