



City of Kimball

High Points



AUGUST 2017



MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT – IN YOUR HOME

Droughts are a normal part of life in the Great Plains and for Nebraska. Many droughts are short-term and may only affect small areas, but multiple-year droughts like the Dust Bowl of the 1930s are relatively common as well.

Conserving water in your home, lawn, and landscape helps to reduce the impact of residential water demand on our natural resources.

Start with the largest water users

- The toilet, shower/bath, and clothes washing machine account for about 2/3rds of the water used in an average household.
- Every Drop Counts! 60 drops per minute = 190 to 260 gallons per month

Toilet

- About 20% of toilets leak, wasting up to 200 or more gallons of water a day. Put a few drops of food dye in the tank. If after 15 minutes color appears in the bowl, the toilet leaks and should be repaired. Typically, the toilet flapper needs replacement or the water level adjusted.
- Reduce toilet flushes by not using them as waste paper baskets.
- Invest in a water-efficient toilet. Toilets manufactured prior to January 1, 1994 may use up to 5 or more gallons per flush. Newer toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets with the WaterSense® label use 1.28 or less gallons per flush. Dual flush toilets use 0.8 gallons for liquids only and 1.6 gallons for solid waste per flush.
- Toilet dams, 1.6 gallon flappers, or water-filled plastic containers can be installed in older toilet tanks but reduced flow can affect flushing. About 3 gallons of water may be needed in the tank to flush properly. Avoid bricks that crumble and affect operation.

Shower

- Replace older showerheads with newer water-efficient ones. Older showerheads can use 6 to 8 gallons of water per minute (gpm) fully opened. Showerheads manufactured since January 1, 1994 use no more than 2.5 gpm. Those with the WaterSense® label must use no more than 2.0 gpm.
- Take short showers. A quick shower usually draws less water than a bath.

Clothes Washing Machine

- Adjust water levels to the laundry load size and soil.
- Wash fewer full loads instead of several small loads to use less total water.
- Consider a more water-efficient clothes washing machine. Older, standard machines might use 23 gallons per load. Those with an EnergyStar® label use about 15 gallons per load. When shopping, compare the amount of water used

for same tub capacity. Look for adjustable water level settings that allow you to choose the level for the load, or that do so automatically.

- Horizontal axis (usually front loading) clothes washers have a history of being water efficient, although new features now make many top loaders water efficient.

Dishwasher

- Replace an old dishwasher. Older dishwashers can use about 14 gallons of water per load. Newer, water-efficient models average 6 to 7 gallons per cycle. Those with an Energy Star® rating use only 4 gallons per cycle.
- Wash fewer full loads rather than several small loads. If small loads must be run, adjust the control setting for the load size and soil level.
- Scrape off excess food before loading rather than pre-rinsing items.

Faucet

- Shut off the water flow while lathering up, brushing teeth, shaving, or completing other similar tasks.
- Install water-efficient faucets. Standard faucets can use 3 to 5 gpm. More efficient kitchen and bathroom faucets use only 2 gpm. WaterSense® labeled faucets must not exceed 1.5 gpm.
- Repair leaky faucets, which can waste 10 to 20 gallons or more a day. Faucet repairs may be as simple as changing an inexpensive washer or O-ring.
- Install faucet aerators that break the flowing water into fine droplets and add air. They can reduce water use by as much as 60% while maintaining wetting effectiveness.

Other Ways to Reduce Water Use

Water softener regeneration cycles can use from 32 to over 140 gallons of water. The actual amount used is dependent upon the amount of hardness removed from the water, the programming of the softener, and the type of softener. Some models are more water efficient in their regeneration cycles. Regeneration cycles can be optimized by using water softeners with demand-initiated regeneration rather than those with set times for regeneration. Regeneration will occur only when required as determined by the gallons of water used, a change in the electrical conductivity of the resin bed, or a change in water hardness.

Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

2017 Tree Removal/Replacement Grant Program funds no longer available

The 2017 Tree Removal/ Replacement Grant Program funds have been depleted. Twenty-seven tree removal and replacement grants were funded this year.

Applications will still be accepted but will not be reviewed nor funds granted until grant funds are received in 2018.

For more information, please call City Hall at 308-235-3639.