

Save your money while saving water

As the dry season approaches, there are several quick and easy ways to cut household water wasting and save money on your water heating and utility costs. What's more, these simple solutions will go unnoticed during your day-to-day activities. .

- **Culprit: Kitchen water outlets account for 15% of household water use and can be inefficient and leaky.**

Faucet Solutions: Ensure leaky taps are sealed or repaired. You can estimate the amount of water wasted from a leaking tap by counting the number of drips. Ten drips per minute amounts to 5 litres of wasted water per day. Also, installing a faucet aerator takes less than two minutes and can save up to 20 litres of water per day.

Dishwasher Solutions: The average dishwasher uses 30 to 53 litres of water per cycle! If installing a new, higher efficiency model isn't in the budget, consider using the 'light wash' option of your current machine and you will save an estimated 11 litres of water per cycle.

- **Culprit: Canadians flush an average of 102 litres or 30% of total household water use down the toilet each day.**

Toilet Solutions: The average Canadian flushes the toilet 5 times per day. By installing a water efficient toilet (6 litre tank or less) you can save as much 70 litres of water per day per person. The District of Invermere and Wildsight will be launching a toilet rebate program for residents this summer to encourage residents to upgrade their inefficient fixtures.

- **Culprit: Standard showerheads can use between 10 and 30 litres of water per minute and are the most significant draw on household water.**

Showerhead Solutions: When you install a low-flow showerhead, using only 9.5 litres per minute or less, hot water use for an average shower can be reduced by more than half. Low-flow showerheads are inexpensive and produce the same amount of water pressure.

- **Culprit: Laundry machines account for 20% of household water use and standard, top-loading models can use up to 208 litres of water per load.**

Laundry Solutions: Switching to a high efficient front-loading machine will cut water use by nearly 40% and let you save as much as 26,000 litres of water per year.

By conserving water, you help support aquatic environments, maintain water reservoir levels critical to sustaining our community during the dry season as well as alleviate demand on sewage treatment facilities.

Every drop of water flushed or run down District of Invermere drains must go through the entire sewage treatment process. Implementing the simple solutions

above helps reduce our need for expensive expansions to our sewage treatment facility as our community continues to grow. The result is a financial savings for taxpayers.

As for the upfront savings of water conservation, current District of Invermere water rates are \$0.585 per m³ for the first 150 m³, and \$0.635 per m³ for the next 50 m³ which means when you use less, you pay less.

For more information contact the Lake Windermere Project at 341-6898. You can also visit the Project office located in the old District of Invermere office beside the Invermere Community Centre. The Lake Windermere Project is a long-term comprehensive stewardship program dedicated to safeguarding the health of our lake. The Lake Windermere Project is made possible by generous financial support from Environment Canada, Columbia Basin Trust and the Real Estate Foundation of B.C.