

INFORMATION SHEET

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

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SRBC - WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

How Everyone Can Save Water

“In the event of a drought which may cause an actual and immediate shortage of available water supply within the basin, or within any part thereof, the commission after public hearing, upon due notice given, may determine and delineate the area of the shortage and by unanimous vote declare a drought emergency therein.”

– Section 11.4 of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, P.L. 91-575; 84 Stat. 1509 et seq.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission provides the following tips as a basic guide to conserving water, especially during drought conditions. However, water conservation should be practiced year round.

Tips for Residential Water Users

- DO NOT water lawns; only water recently seeded or planted landscapes or year old vegetation.
- Limit vehicle washing activities, but if you are washing, use a bucket instead of a hose, and utilize car washes that re-use the water.
- Take short showers instead of baths (collect water with a bucket while waiting for the shower water to heat up). Consider bathing your children together.
- Don't run water while shaving, brushing teeth, or washing dishes by hand.
- Run dishwasher and washing machine only when filled to capacity.
- Inspect and repair all leaking faucets, pipes, hoses and toilets.
- Install new shower heads and sink faucets equipped with water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps, or retrofit existing showers and faucets with these devices.
- Replace older toilets that use more water with newer, low-consumption toilets. (For older toilets requiring 5-6 gallons per flush, place a water-filled bottle inside the toilet's water tank to use less water.)
- Refrigerate tap water to avoid running the faucet for a long period to get cold water.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways – don't hose them down.
- Select more drought-tolerant vegetation and plant species for landscaping, and use mulches to retain moisture.
- Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubbery or trees, and/or collect the water in a large bucket for use elsewhere (nonpotable water).
- Cover pools and spas when they are unoccupied to reduce evaporation.

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Tips for Agricultural and Golf Course Operations Using Irrigation Systems

- Reduce the level of irrigation and/or alter the time pattern to the coolest parts of the day and when it is not windy to reduce water loss through evaporation.
- Inspect irrigation equipment for leaks and repair all faulty piping.
- Install best available water conservation technology.

Tips for Industrial/Commercial Facilities

- Inspect plumbing fixtures for leaks and repair all faulty piping.
- Install water conserving devices, and update outdated plumbing fixtures.
- Implement a water re-use program if one is not already in place.

Re-use water whenever possible.