Many washing machines use 40 or more gallons of water a load, whether the washer's stuffed full or loaded with only a couple of socks. Save up for a full load and make your water work efficiently. Or remember to set your machine for a lesser load, if it can be adjusted.

Simple Winter Water-Saving Tips for 2018

Every drop counts! Save water this winter with these conservation tips:

1. Winter is the perfect time for making plans to add or modify your landscape to use less water. Consider low-water gardens that attract wildlife, such as butterflies or birds. Or work around themes such as fragrance, edible, ornamental or native plants.

2. Check indoor fixtures for leaks and fix right away. A small leak left unattended can account for hundreds of gallons of good, clean water lost. Leaks of 1/32 inches, or the size of a No. 2 pencil lead, can result in 6,000 gallons of water loss per month.

3. Consider replacing an existing toilet with a high-efficiency model, which uses 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense labeled products in your home and business.

4. Insulate your water heater and water pipes. If your water tank is new, it's likely already insulated. If you have an older hot water tank, check to see if it has insulation with an R-value of at least 24. If not, consider insulating your water tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25%–45% and save you about 7%–16% in water heating costs—and should pay for itself in about a year. Doing so will also will cut down on the amount of water that goes down the drain while waiting for hot water to flow. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around $20.

5. Install a low-flow showerhead. Skagit PUD sells high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator kits for just $11. Having a high efficiency showerhead is a very practical way to reduce water consumption during bathing. It not only reduces your water bill, it reduces your sewer and energy bills as well.
Skagit PUD is governed by three commissioners that are elected by the residents of Skagit County and serve six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis. The PUD Commissioners establish policy, approve budgets and expenditures, establish rates for services, retain the utility management, and provide oversight of the utility. PUDs are self-regulated and as such, are not regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Water service is provided on a non-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

As with any decision before the Board, citizens have numerous opportunities to comment on actions concerning the utility. As elected commissioners, they have a responsibility to ensure that provided services are financially feasible and in the best interests of the customer.

As a Skagit PUD customer-owner, you have the ability to voice concerns during every commission meeting. We hold open meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., where members of the public can observe and participate in decisions made by the Board of Commissioners.

For the 2017-18 school year, Skagit PUD has established a new student internship program at our water treatment plant (WTP). Interns work under the supervision of an experienced WTP operator to perform various activities related to the service, maintenance, repair and troubleshooting of water treatment plant equipment.

In coordination with Bellingham Technical College (BTC), which offers an Instrumentation and Control program, and a Process Technology program, Skagit PUD is able to place qualified students in the internship program. Although the program is just getting off the ground, WTP Superintendent Jamie LeBlanc believes the PUD is already benefitting in several ways.

“It highlights our industry, which is normally overlooked by young professionals, so that we can acquire talented operators and technicians in the future,” LeBlanc explained.

“Having an intern also enhanced the perspective of my current operators,” LeBlanc said.

“Interns bring with them novel perspectives, fresh ideas, and specialized strengths and skill sets.”

Upon successful completion of the 10-week paid program, interns will have enough water-related experience to qualify for the Washington State Department of Health’s Water Treatment Plant Operator In-Training (WTPO-IT) certification examination. The Operator In-Training certificate positions interns to gain full WTPO certification once they can demonstrate they have gained the required 12 months of operational experience in a water treatment plant.

By creating an internship program, it allows the PUD to evaluate the intern as a potential employee in a realistic setting outside of an interview. The OIT certification is transferable to any other water treatment plant in Washington State, and will provide the intern with an expedited avenue for a potential career in the waterworks field.

Typically, U.S. households consume at least 30 percent of their water by lawn sprinkling. Inside, toilets use the most water. The average person flushes over five times per day (household or work). That totals nearly 2,000 flushes per person annually. The average five-minute shower takes between 12 to 25 gallons of water. On average, each American uses about 80-100 gallons of water a day.