

HOW TO SAVE WATER



IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

- ✓ **REFRIGERATE A BOTTLE OF DRINKING WATER** instead of letting the faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- ✓ **USE A DISHPAN OR PLUG THE SINK** when washing and rinsing dishes.
- ✓ **INSTALL A LOW-FLOW AERATOR** on all faucets.
- ✓ **DON'T PRE-RINSE DISHES** before loading the dishwasher—it's unnecessary and wasteful.
- ✓ **FULLY LOAD THE WASHING MACHINE and DISHWASHER** before operating.
- ✓ **USE THE PROPER WATER LEVEL** or load size selection on the washing machine.
- ✓ **CONSIDER WATER CONSUMPTION** as well as energy efficiency when purchasing a washing machine or dishwasher. *(Most manufacturers provide this information to consumers.)*

OUTSIDE OF THE HOME

The following water-saving measures should be practiced regularly, but remember, during mandatory water use restrictions, all water use outside the home is prohibited!

- ✓ **USE A BROOM—NOT A HOSE** to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- ✓ **USE WATER FROM A BUCKET** to wash the car.
- ✓ **CONTROL THE WATER FLOW ON A HOSE** with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- ✓ **WATER THE LAWN OR GARDEN** during the coolest part of the day. Do not water on windy days.
- ✓ **SET SPRINKLERS** to only water the lawn or garden. Do not water the street or sidewalk.
- ✓ **USE SOAKER HOSES and TRICKLE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS** to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation by 20 to 50 percent.
- ✓ **USE MULCH AROUND SHRUBS and GARDEN PLANTS** to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and to cut down on weed growth.
- ✓ **USE NATIVE PLANTS IN LANDSCAPING**—they require less care and water than the ornamental varieties.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- ✓ **ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE** organizations such as service clubs and scout or church youth groups to start a water conservation program. Water conservation is stewardship of our natural resources.
- ✓ **ENCOURAGE LARGE WATER-USING FACILITIES** such as schools, health clubs, motels and others to use water conservation devices.
- ✓ **ENCOURAGE USE OF DROUGHT TOLERANT VEGETATION** in outdoor landscaping at large facilities and community sites.
- ✓ **SURVEY WATER USERS** in large water-using facilities and develop plans to reduce water use.
- ✓ **RETROFIT OLDER BUILDINGS and FACILITIES** with water-efficient plumbing fixtures.

There are many steps you can take right now to save energy and cut down on costs at home.

HOW TO SAVE ENERGY



Hagerstown Light Department

- ✓ **DO NOT BLOCK REGISTERS** with draperies and furniture.
- ✓ **CHECK THE WATTS** of incandescent light bulbs. Often, lower wattage bulbs that provide more light and use the same amount of energy can be substituted.
- ✓ **CHECK THE LUMENS OF A BULB INSTEAD OF THE WATTS.** Lumens tell the brightness of the bulb, watts tell the amount of power it takes to make the bulb work.
- ✓ **REPLACE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS** with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs).
- ✓ **PLACE FLOOR, TABLE and WALL LAMPS IN CORNERS** rather than against flat walls. Lamps in corners reflect light from two wall surfaces instead of just one and provide more useful light.
- ✓ **USE LONG-LIFE BULBS ONLY WHEN IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS,** such as in hard-to-reach places. They provide less light than standard incandescent bulbs of the same wattage.
- ✓ **TURN OFF LIGHTS** when leaving a room.
- ✓ **INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT** to keep your house comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- ✓ **AIR-DRY DISHES** instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle.
- ✓ **TURN OFF COMPUTERS** and monitors when not in use.
- ✓ **USE POWER STRIPS** to plug-in home electronics (TVs, DVD players, etc.). Turn the power strip off when equipment is not in use *(Electronics in standby mode still use several watts of power.)*
- ✓ **LOWER THE WATER HEATER** thermostat to 120°F.
- ✓ **TAKE SHORT SHOWERS** instead of baths.
- ✓ **ONLY WASH FULL LOADS** of dishes and clothes.
- ✓ **LOOK FOR THE ENERGY STAR LABEL** on appliances—these products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- ✓ **CLOSE THE CURTAINS!** *(or mini-blinds & shutters)* They keep out the summer's heat. **OPEN SHADES** during winter months to let in the warm sunshine. For extra shade, plant plenty of trees and shrubs.
- ✓ **DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT** before opening the fridge. Frequently opening and closing the refrigerator door can increase the electric bill.
- ✓ **CLEAN THE CONDENSER COILS** underneath or behind the refrigerator every six months.
- ✓ **CHANGE OR CLEAN HEATING and AIR CONDITIONING** filters monthly. Dirty filters put unnecessary strain on the unit and can increase operating costs.
- ✓ **CHECK AIR HANDLER and DUCTWORK FOR LEAKS;** weather-strip or caulk around windows, doors, plumbing and other gaps so that warmed or cooled air won't escape.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<http://www.hagerstownmd.org/Utilities/Electric/energysavings.html>