

A decorative border of black umbrellas surrounds the page. There are 18 umbrellas in a horizontal row at the top and bottom. On the left and right sides, there are vertical columns of 18 umbrellas each, with the top and bottom umbrellas in each column overlapping the horizontal rows.

Water Conservation Tips To Help Combat Waste!

Canada has an enviable supply of fresh water. It's something Canadians are proud of. Unfortunately, it's also something Canadians take for granted. According to a report by Environment Canada, the perception that we have an unending supply of clean, fresh water is causing us to be rather wasteful when it comes to using our most precious resource. In fact, the report says the average household and business could easily scale back on water usage by 40 percent.

Encouraging members of your community to conserve more water is not only good for the environment—it's good for government budgets. After all, if citizens are using more and more water, the increased demand puts additional stress on infrastructure, such as water treatment plants and water mains.

Clearly, there's a strong case for conservation. Keep reading for simple tips the entire community can use in an effort to save on water consumption.

The three R's of water conservation

Many Canadian municipalities are starting to introduce "demand management" tactics to promote water efficiency. One of the key pillars of demand management is public education. We've all heard of the four R's of sustainability—reduce, reuse, recycle and recover. Similarly, there are three R's of water preservation.

- **Repurpose:** We often don't think of other uses for the water we're dumping down the drain. For example, letting the faucet run to warm up before washing hands is an opportunity to collect water that can be used for cleaning or watering a plant.
- **Remedy:** Some may think water leaks are par for the course. However, a leak as tiny as the period at the end of this sentence could waste more than 4,000 gallons of fresh water every month. Help your community uncover hidden water leaks by communicating the following: First, check your water metre; then refrain from using any water for two hours. After the two hours are up, check your metre again. If there is a change, there is a leak.
- **Review:** Conducting a thorough review or audit of water consumption is a great way to identify ways to save. You may even want to challenge your community members to a "save-off." Remember, there's plenty we can do to help our community use water more wisely. Promote the three R's and watch the savings pour in.