

## Are you a heavy water user?

To find out how your water use compares to the suggested maximum of 65 gallons per person per day, see the handy lookup chart opposite.

If you use over 100,000 gallons per year, you should get a free water audit from Energy New England, courtesy of the Sharon Water Department. They will provide you with a customized analysis that will highlight the most cost-effective strategies for conserving water in your home. To schedule a free water audit for your home, call the Sharon Water Department at 781/784-1525.

## Please do your part to help our community use water efficiently.

Sharon has a long and proud history of protecting and preserving our drinking water aquifers as well as the natural beauty of our town. Read about the sensible lawn care practices, and efficient toilets and clothes washers described in this pamphlet. Let's use our municipal well water efficiently. It will save money, improve our local ecosystem, and maintain our water independence.

Water Management Advisory Committee  
Sharon Water Department  
781/784-1525



## Is your water use under 65 GPCD?

### Gallons Per Capita Daily (GPCD)

	NO. OF HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4,000	22	11	7	5	4	4	3	3
6,000	33	16	11	8	7	5	5	4
8,000	44	22	15	11	9	7	6	5
10,000	55	27	18	14	11	9	8	7
12,000	66	33	22	16	13	11	9	8
14,000	77	38	26	19	15	13	11	10
16,000	88	44	29	22	18	15	13	11
18,000	99	49	33	25	20	16	14	12
20,000	110	55	37	27	22	18	16	14
22,000	121	60	40	30	24	20	17	15
24,000	132	66	44	33	26	22	18	16
26,000	142	71	47	36	28	24	20	18
28,000	153	77	51	38	31	26	22	19
30,000	164	82	55	41	33	27	23	21
32,000	175	88	58	44	35	29	25	22
34,000	186	93	62	47	37	31	27	23
36,000	197	99	66	49	39	33	28	25
38,000	208	104	69	52	42	35	30	26
40,000	219	110	73	55	44	37	31	27
42,000	230	115	77	58	46	38	33	29
44,000	241	121	80	60	48	40	34	30
46,000	252	126	84	63	50	42	36	32
48,000	263	132	88	66	53	44	38	33
50,000	274	137	91	68	55	46	39	34
52,000	285	142	95	71	57	47	41	36
54,000	296	148	99	74	59	49	42	37
56,000	307	153	102	77	61	51	44	38
58,000	318	159	106	79	64	53	45	40
60,000	329	164	110	82	66	55	47	41
62,000	340	170	113	85	68	57	49	42
64,000	351	175	117	88	70	58	50	44
66,000	362	181	121	90	72	60	52	45
68,000	373	186	124	93	75	62	53	47
70,000	384	192	128	96	77	64	55	48
72,000	395	197	132	99	79	66	56	49
75,000	411	205	137	103	82	68	59	51
80,000	438	219	146	110	88	73	63	55
85,000	466	233	155	116	93	78	67	58
90,000	493	247	164	123	99	82	70	62
95,000	521	260	174	130	104	87	74	65
100,000	548	274	183	137	110	91	78	68

Gallons used in 6 months (for annual gpcd, average your last 2 water bills)

# Secrets of a Waterless Lawn



## Reduce costly lawn irrigation and still have a nice lawn

Summertime demand for water surges almost 50% over indoor use in winter, depleting our groundwater when it is needed most to sustain ecosystems in local rivers, lakes and streams. Lawn watering is the main reason for this surge in water use.

Overwatering is expensive, and can even cause harmful fungus outbreaks. One inch of water per week is enough to keep a lawn green. That includes natural rain, which averages over 3" per month in summer.

If you can tolerate a period of dormancy in late summer, you can have a healthy, beautiful lawn without any irrigation at all. The quality and thickness of the topsoil is key. A layer of rich, organic loam 6" to 8" thick retains moisture, encourages deep roots, and harbors earthworms that aerate and enrich the soil with their castings.

Topsoil can be supplemented by leaving grass clippings and leaves shredded by your mower to decompose on your lawn. This builds a rich organic layer that holds moisture and recycles the costly nutrients you paid for when you fertilized your lawn. It also makes lawn mowing easier! To build topsoil faster, apply a thin layer of rich loam or compost once or twice a year.

Applying weak organic fertilizer in spring and fall aids moisture retention and adds micronutrients. Mix it with equal parts of 10-10-10 for root development, and lime to counteract acid rain. Using white powdered lime helps you see where you have already fertilized. Apply this mix at a rate of about 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

## More tips for a healthy lawn:

- Cut it long. Set your mower to its highest setting. Taller grass provides shade to slow evaporation from the soil.
- Mow it regularly. You should be removing less than 1/3 of the grass when you mow.
- Sharpen your mower blade. A dull blade shreds grass instead of slicing it.
- Tolerate clover in your lawn. Clover is a legume and adds nitrogen to the soil.
- Avoid pesticides. They kill beneficial earthworms. If grubs become a problem, apply milky spore. Once established in the soil, milky spore can protect against grubs for years!
- Overseed with drought-hardy perennial grass seed in early September to crowd out weeds. Apply compost, dehydrated manure or peat moss on newly seeded areas, especially bare spots, to hold moisture and help establish new grass.
- Compost your own "black gold" for use on the lawn and in your garden. Add leaves, weeds, melon rinds, carrot peels, tea bags, apple cores, banana peels, and other vegetable wastes. Crushed egg shells are good too. Avoid meat and high-fat items like peanut butter that smell and attract pests.

- For additional information, visit:  
[www.nsrwa.org/greenskapes/guidebook/](http://www.nsrwa.org/greenskapes/guidebook/)

## Tips and rebates for saving water indoors:

- Get a \$150 rebate for a High Efficiency Toilet (HET) that averages under 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf). A HET saves about 8,000 gallons per year compared to an older 3.5 gpf model. Be sure the dual-flush or pressure assist model you choose is MaP rated to flush at least 500 to 1,000 grams. See:  
<http://www.bewaterwise.com/HET.pdf>
- Front-load clothes washers use less water than a typical top-load washer. They also save energy, reduce drying time, use less detergent, cause less fabric wear, and extend the life of your septic system. The Water Department offers a \$200 rebate for models with an Energy Star water factor of under 6.0 and at least 3 cu. ft. capacity (\$150 for smaller models). To look up the water factor, see [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr\\_clothes\\_washers](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.pr_clothes_washers)

*Before you buy, call the Water Dept. at 784-1525 to confirm which toilets and clothes washers qualify for rebates.*

- Check for leaks. Put food coloring in your toilet tank for 15 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, it's leaking. Also, if your water meter advances while no one is home, there's probably a leak.
- For more information, call the water efficiency hotline: **1-888-772-4242**.