



Become Water Wise!

Household Chemicals:

- Be aware that many chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Select less toxic alternatives. Use non-toxic substitutes wherever possible.
- Take unwanted household chemicals to hazardous waste collection centers; do not pour them down the drain. Pouring chemicals down the drain may disrupt your septic system or else contaminate treatment plant sludge.
- Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they may eventually contaminate runoff.
- Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents.
- Use water-based products whenever possible.
- Leftover household pesticide? Do not indiscriminately spray pesticides, either indoors or outdoors, where a pest problem has not been identified. Dispose of excess pesticides at hazardous waste collection centers.



Landscaping and Gardening:

- When landscaping your yard, select plants that have low requirements for water, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- Cultivate plants that discourage pests. Minimize grassed areas which require high maintenance.
- Preserve existing trees, and plant trees and shrubs

to help prevent erosion and promote infiltration of water into the soil.

- Use landscaping techniques such as grass swales (low areas in the lawn) or porous walkways to increase infiltration and decrease runoff.



Other landscaping tips:

- Leave lawn clippings on your lawn so that nutrients in the clippings are recycled and less yard waste goes to landfills.
- Compost your yard trimmings. Compost is a valuable soil conditioner which gradually releases nutrients to your lawn and garden. (Using compost will also decrease the amount of fertilizer you need to apply.) In addition, compost retains moisture in the soil and thus helps you conserve water.
- Keep storm gutters and drains clean of leaves and yard trimmings. (Decomposing vegetative matter leaches nutrients and can clog storm systems and result in flooding.)

Water Conservation:

- Use low-flow faucets, shower heads, reduced-flow toilet flushing equipment, and water saving appliances such as dish and clothes washers.
- Repair leaking faucets, toilets, and pumps.
- Use dishwashers and clothes washers only when fully loaded.
- Take short showers instead of baths and avoid letting faucets run unnecessarily.
- Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Alternatively, go to a commercial carwash that uses water

efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.

- Do not over-water your lawn or garden. Over-watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground water.
- When your lawn or garden needs watering, use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses. (Such devices reduce runoff and are 20-percent more effective than sprinklers.)



Community Action:

- Participate in clean-up activities in your neighbourhood.
- Write or call your elected representatives to inform them about your concerns and encourage legislation to protect water resources.
- Promote environmental education. Help educate people in your community about ways in which they can help protect water quality.



Prairie Pointers!

- Visit your parks (TCYP)
- Remember to dispose of waste properly (SWA)
- Animals and plants must be left in their homes (NS)
- Investigate more about native prairie (AAFC-PFRA)
- Report an Owl! 1 800 HOOT (SBOIC)
- I cut my pop holders (DUC)
- Eat Canadian beef (PCAP)
- Stick to the trails (SBOIC)