

Water Conservation



Salem, MA – Kimberley Driscoll, Mayor
 Securing Water for Our Future

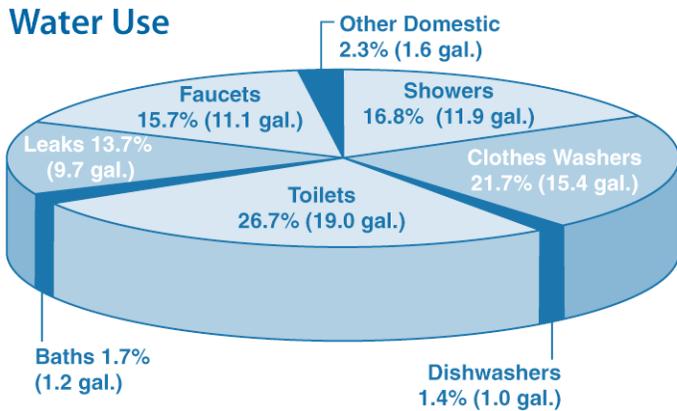
A good water supply is a valuable asset. The City of Salem is committed to conserving and protecting this important resource.

Salem's Water Conservation Goals

Salem's current residential water usage is 71 gallons per person each day. Salem's draft water withdrawal permit states residential consumption should be less than 65 gallons per person each day. Conserving water not only helps Salem reach this goal, but it also helps Salem provide customers with adequate water at a reasonable price.

Conserve water and you will save on both your water and sewer bill. The less water you use, the less wastewater you produce.

Typical Residential Water Use



Breakdown of household water use based on Salem's usage of 71 gallons per person each day.

Save Water in Your Kitchen

Fact: Every minute of running water wastes 2 to 7 gallons.

Solution: Do dishes in a basin instead of letting the water run. Save 8 to 15 gallons per day.

Solution: Install a low flow faucet aerator and reduce water use by up to 25%.

Save Water in Your Bathroom

Shower Toilet

Fact: Typical toilets use 3 to 7 gallons per flush.

Solution: Save 2 Liters (0.53 gallons) per flush by placing a 2L soda bottle in your tank.

Solution: Install a low flush toilet and save water and energy.

Fact: Showers account for 16.8% of indoor water use.

Solution: Take shorter showers and save water and energy.

Solution: Install a low flow shower head and save 2 to 4.5 gallons per minute.

The Leaky Toilet Experiment

1. Put a few drops of food coloring (or instant coffee or powdered fruit drink mix) in the toilet tank.

2. Wait 10-15 minutes.

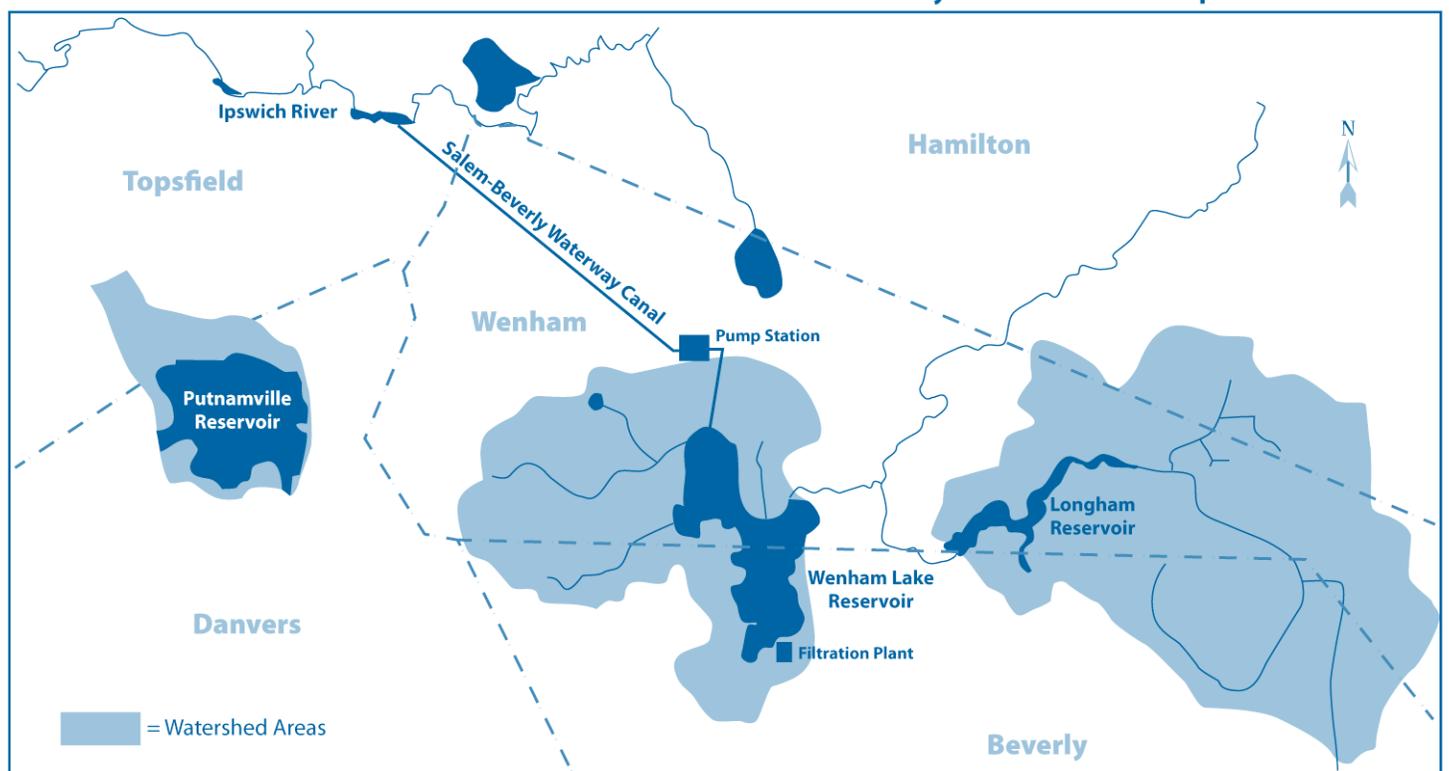
3. Check to see if bowl water is colored—if it is you have a leak.

4. Replace the toilet flapper.

5. Save up to 100 gallons of water per day!



Salem and Beverly's watershed—The Ipswich River Basin



Salem's drinking water comes from four sources: the Ipswich River Canal, the Putnam Reservoir, Wenham Lake and the Longham Reservoir.

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What You Can Do to Help

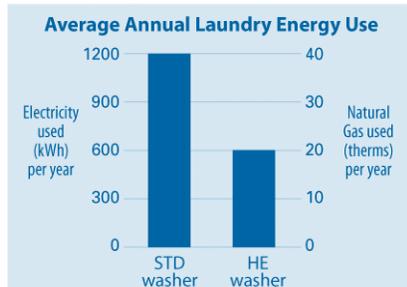
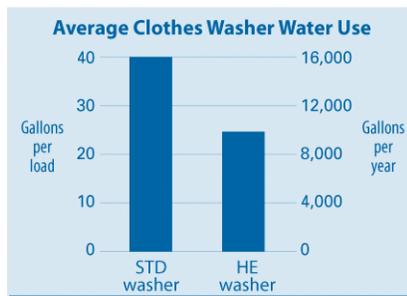
Save Water in Your Laundry

Fact: Laundry accounts for 21.7% of household water consumption.

Solution: Only do laundry when you have a full load and save 45 to 55 gallons per wash!

Solution: Invest in a High Efficiency (HE) washing machine.

After installing HE washers, the average resident saved **44% on water, 50% on energy and 24% on detergent**, according to a US Department of Energy and Maytag Corporation experiment (May 2000).



Approximate use based on 392 loads per year (EPA/DOE). Energy use includes water heater and dryer.

Fun Facts

A typical household does nearly 400 loads of laundry per year. A standard washer uses 40 gallons of water per load, the equivalent of approximately 16,000 gallons of water per year.

HE washers save around 6,000 to 8,000 gallons of water per year, more than an average person will drink in a lifetime.

The potential energy savings from a HE washer are enough to power the lights in an average house every evening for a year.

Discounted Rain Barrels

Save drinking water and money by collecting rain to water your plants and lawn.

FOR SALE—recycled 55-gallon barrels with screens and brass spigot that connects to a regular hose.

Order your rain barrel today by calling the Salem Public Works Department at 978-745-9595 ext. 341

First 50 barrels on sale for \$47.00
additional barrels \$57.00
(retail price \$85.00)



Save Water Outdoors

Maximize lawn care efficiency, save water and time.

Fact: The Ipswich River Basin is stressed in the summer months when municipal water demands are highest.

Solution: Don't water your lawn in the spring; roots will grow deeper in the soil and be able to withstand dry periods. When you do water your lawn, water for one hour twice a week, and apply only enough water to bring the total amount of rain plus added water to one inch per week. DO NOT water your lawn lightly and often; this pattern keeps roots near the surface and promotes crabgrass. Water between 4 A.M. to 8 A.M. or 8 P.M. to 12 A.M. to minimize evaporation losses.

Salem's Current Water-Saving Efforts

- Free water conservation devices are available to all Salem residents. ➡
- The Water Department hired a subcontractor to conduct free water audits for all Salem Housing Authority residents. Budget permitting, additional audits may be available to other Salem residents.
- The Water Department is saving water by repairing the leaks found in the 2005 city-wide leak detection program.

References:

- (1) NEWWA. PR in a Packet Communication Kit.
- (2) EOE and MWRC. Water Conservation Standards. Draft Final 2006.
- (3) MWRA Online. The Water System. <http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/html/wat.htm>

Save Water—Save Money with free equipment

FREE
while supplies last



Available at
Salem Water Department
120 Washington Street, 4th floor
First come. First serve.