



EMERGENCY: 911  
 POLICE NON-EMERGENCY:  
 890-3335  
 CITY INFORMATION:  
 890-3000  
 CRIME PREVENTION:  
 807-5433  
 FIRE PREVENTION:  
 831-6392  
 TRASH RECYCLING  
 831-6890  
 UTILITY BILLING:  
 890-3245  
 CITY WEB SITE:  
<http://www.raleighnc.gov>

**NUMBERS TO REMEMBER**



*Prepared by the  
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 Public Affairs  
 Department  
 Voice 890-3100/  
 TDD 890-3107  
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### 35 GALLONS PER DAY, PER PERSON IS RALEIGH WATER SYSTEM'S GOAL

The Raleigh City Council has set 35 gallons per day as the goal for individual water consumption in a further effort to conserve the area's water supply in the midst of this exceptional drought.

All Raleigh water customers are being asked to install low-flow devices. The City is purchasing the devices in bulk and will work with church and civic groups to disseminate these water-saving devices to residents with lower incomes.

The City Council Members are unanimous in their support of a motion to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (which operates Raleigh's water source, Falls Lake) to increase the lake's operating level to allow permanent use of the sedimentation pool. Presently only 13 percent of the lake's water is used for consumption. Raising that to 17 percent would be enormously beneficial.

The City also is working with its largest water customers, North Carolina State University, the State of North Carolina, Wake County and the Wake County Public Schools, as well as the Homebuilders Association of Raleigh and Wake County, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, to further encourage water conservation.

For more information on what the City of Raleigh is doing to conserve our water supply and what you can do, please visit [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov) or telephone the City's Public Utilities Department at 857-4540.

### CONSERVATION IS THE KEY

North Carolina is suffering through an historic drought. But with us all working together, we will get through this without injury to the economic viability or livability of our state. The City of Los Angeles has grown by 1 million people since the 1970s, but uses the same amount of water. As a matter of fact, the entire United States uses less water than it did 25 years ago even though we are now home to many millions more people.

How can this be? Conservation! The following are some water conservation tips that you will want to make part of your daily routine:

1. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave. This can save up to eight gallons per day;
2. Put a couple of inches of warm water in the sink to rinse your razor. This rinses the razor just as well as running water, with far less waste;
3. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. This saves 500 to 800 gallons per month;
4. When beginning your shower, do not waste cold water while waiting for the hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet. This can save 200 to 300 gallons a month;
5. Take shorter showers. Turn off the shower after soaping up and turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water;
6. Check toilet for leaks by putting dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak

- that should be repaired. This saves 400 gallons a month;
7. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints to save 20 gallons per day per leak;
  8. Buy low-flush toilets which use one to two gallons per flush instead of the usual three to five gallons;
  9. If you are unable to purchase a low-flush toilet, put plastic bottles in your toilet tank to cut down on water waste. Put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill the bottles with water, screw the lids on and put them in your toilet tanks, safely away from the operating mechanism. This may save 10 or more gallons of water per day. (Be sure that at least 3 gallons of water remain in the tank so that it will flush properly);
  10. Insulate your water pipes. It is easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You will get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats;
  11. If you wash dishes by hand – and that is the best way – don't not leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run. This saves 200 to 500 gallons a month;
  12. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible this minimizes rinse water needed and saves 50 to 150 gallons a month;
  13. Use the dish washer and clothes washer only for full loads;
  14. With clothes washers avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added five gallons for the extra rinse;
  15. If possible, replace your old clothes washer. New energy star-rated washers use 35 percent to 50 percent less water and 50 percent less energy per load. Also consider buying a water-saving frontload washer (see "WaterSense" located at the bottom of this page);
  16. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This avoids wasteful running of tap water to cool it for drinking and saves 200 to 300 gallons a month;
  17. Do not run the faucet when you clean vegetables. Rinse then in a filled sink or pan. This saves 150 to 250 gallons a month;
  18. Avoid using the garbage disposal and compost. This saves 50 to 150 gallons a month;
  19. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow evaporation;
  20. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation;

21. Have an evaporative air conditioner? Direct the water drain line to a flower bed, tree base or lawn;
22. Dispose of hazardous materials properly. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water, effectively eliminating that much water from our water supply. Wake County operates permanent collection centers for all Wake County residents to drop off hazardous materials. The centers are located at the North Wake Sanitary Landfill off Durant Road and at the South Wake Transfer Station off Highway 55 between Apex and Holly Springs. The North Wake collection center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month. The South Wake collection center is open from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month. Please call the Triangle Region Household Waste Information Line at 287-8051 or Wake County at 856-6186 for more information;
23. Do not contaminate our water system by flushing prescription medications;
24. Encourage your employer to promote water conservation at the workplace. Suggest that water conservation tips be placed in the employee orientation manual and training program;
25. Support projects that promote increased use of reclaimed water for irrigation and other uses;
26. Promote water conservation in community newsletters, on bulletin boards and by example;
27. Patronize businesses that practice and promote water conservation;
28. Encourage your school system to promote a water conservation ethic among school children and adults;
29. Support efforts and programs to create an awareness and concern for water conservation among tourists and visitors to our area;
30. Conserve water because it is the right thing to do!

### Look for the WaterSense Label

*WaterSense*, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, makes it easy for Americans to save water and protect the environment. Look for the WaterSense label to choose quality, water-efficient products. Many products are available and can result in a tremendous water savings for your home.

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

