SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT WATER!

The greatest reduction in personal water usage can be in the bathroom. Two-thirds of the water used in an average home is in the bathroom, mostly for flushing toilets, or taking showers and baths.

- Check your toilet for leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait 15 minutes, without flushing, to see if the color appears in the bowl. If so, you have a leak which you can repair to save money right away.
- If you don't have a low flow toilet, you can make your own "water saver" for the toilet. Remove the label from a 1 liter plastic bottle. Fill the bottom with small stones or sand to weigh it down. Fill the remainder of the bottle with water and put the cap back on. Lift the tank top. Flush the toilet to empty the water out and put the bottle in the tank. You'll save 1 liter of water with each flush.
- Don't let the faucet run while you brush your teeth, wash your hands, or shave. Each time you turn off the faucet, you can save 1 to 4 gallons of water!

FAUCET LEAK (drops/minute)	GALLONS LOST PER MONTH	GALLONS LOST PER YEAR
30	84	1,008
60	168	2,016
90	253	3,036
120	337	4,044

Add up all the land that drains into the same waterway, and you have a watershed. Understanding how we impact our watershed is the first step toward protecting water quality.

Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and sprinklers moves over land to the nearest storm drain, ditch or creek. Pollutants hitch a ride in this water, entering waterways throughout the Miami Valley. This runoff can pollute the water, harming the creatures living in and around the stream. Controlling runoff pollution helps ensure we will have enough clean water for future generations.

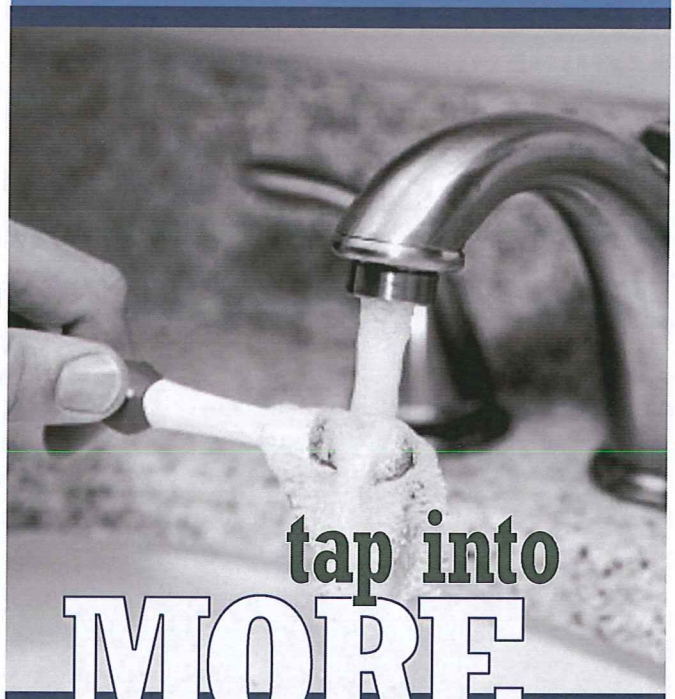
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Pick a few of the simple steps recommended in this brochure. Try them for a few months. Remember, a few simple changes can make a big difference.
- Share this tip card with a friend or neighbor.
- Get involved in local watershed activities.

Clean Water Healthy Life
we all live downstream

Clean Water, Healthy Life is an educational outreach effort of the Miami Valley Storm Water Awareness Team. The "Team" is a collaboration of agencies with an interest in preserving water quality throughout Southwestern Ohio. To learn more about what you can do to support clean-water efforts, contact the Miami Conservancy District at 937-223-1278, or your local Soil & Water Conservation District office.

TIP CARD NO. 1



tap into MORE savings

saving water saves you money...

Find out how making a few water saving changes around the house and yard can save you money and protect our water.

Clean Water Healthy Life
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DID YOU KNOW THAT A SILENT TOILET LEAK CAN WASTE AS MUCH AS 200 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY?

A FEW SIMPLE WATER SAVING CHANGES WILL SAVE YOU MONEY AND PROTECT WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...

Saving water is important in Southwest Ohio, as well as in areas where water is scarce. You are paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted. Conserve water...save money... and protect nature!

Leaks in your home could be causing you to waste money. Even the tiniest leak adds up to a lot of lost water in a small amount of time, so it is important to check and maintain your faucets, toilets, and water-using appliances. In addition, you can save money by implementing the following simple water saving techniques that will quickly become habit.

IN THE HOUSE

- Insulate hot water pipes - this reduces the amount of water that needs to run before hot water is available.
- Water plants with the old water from your freshwater fish tanks. It's an inexpensive fertilizer high in nitrogen and phosphorus. Pet bowls or kiddie pools work well, too.
- Run full loads of laundry or use the correct load size settings. You'll save electricity as well as water.
- Be creative! Have a family contest to see who can be the best water conserver.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Fill a pitcher with tap water and put it in the fridge. It's faster - and less wasteful - than running the tap every time you want a cold drink of water. Running the faucet can waste 3 to 7 quarts of water per glass of water.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher. The wash cycle uses the same amount of water even if it just has a few dishes in it. If washing dishes by hand, turn the water off between rinses or partially fill one side of the sink for rinsing only.

IN THE YARD

- Wash your car on your lawn. This way you can clean your car and water the grass at the same time - and keep soap, oil, grease, and metals from flowing into the storm drain on their way to the nearest stream. Be sure to turn the hose off between rinses.
- Install rain barrels so you'll have free - and chlorine-free - irrigation water.
- If you water your lawn, 1 inch a week is all it needs. If you have a sprinkler system, install rain sensors. Overwatering can damage plants, stimulate fungus, and leach nutrients out of the soil.
- A good deep watering in the morning or late in the evening reduces evaporation and promotes deep root growth. Frequent, light watering will result in grass with shallow roots that can't handle extreme weather conditions.
- Be sure to adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or driveway. Avoid watering on windy days, so the water will go where you want it.
- Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain water.
- Use a broom, instead of a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.