

## Save in the House

- Run clothes washers and dishwashers only when they are full; save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Plug the bathtub drain before turning water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Skip the liquid fabric softener's need for an extra rinse cycle; instead, pop a fabric-softener sheet into the dryer.
- Shave a couple of minutes off your shower time to save water AND energy costs.
- When brushing your teeth, turn water off as you brush and on when you need to rinse your toothbrush or your mouth.
- Place a brick in the toilet tank to save water each time you flush.
- Install inexpensive water-saving aerators on all of your faucets. They're simple to install!
- A water-efficient showerhead can save 15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower — 1,800 gallons a month for a family of four. If your shower fills a 1 gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, consider replacing it with a more-efficient shower head.
- Replace gaskets on drippy water faucets and repair leaky toilets. Leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water every day.
- Older toilets can use up to 7 gallons per flush. Save up to 80 percent with toilets labeled "Water Sense."
- The average family uses about 400 gallons of water daily.
- Over 17 years, the City of Hays reduced its water usage 55%, while its population increased 25% and its business and household numbers increased 35%.



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## Save Outside

- More plants die from overwatering than from under watering.
- Use a rain gauge or can to measure rainfall, then reduce watering accordingly.
- Use a spade or trowel to check moisture in the lawn or garden. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you don't need to water yet.
- Some grasses, like K-31 fescue, don't need great amounts of water. Check with the Lyon County Extension Service or your favorite landscaper or nursery to see how much water your lawn needs to live through the drought.
- Use a hose or drip irrigation on trees and shrubs, so water is applied direction to the roots, where it's needed.
- Avoid watering on windy days, when water is blown away or evaporates, instead of reaching the plants' roots.
- A running hose left untended can waste water; when you water lawns and landscaping, set a kitchen timer to remind you when to stop.
- Adjust sprinkler systems to cycle less frequently and for shorter periods of time. Turn off *before* water runs off the lawn and down the gutter.
- Some plants are naturally drought-resistant and thrive in hot, drier weather.

For more information, or to book a speaker for your organization, call

Rick Frevert, 342-5545, Kerry Sull, 343-4243, or Brian Rees, 341-3220; or Ann Mayo, 342-4864.

Want to research more on your own?  
For conservation tips:

[www.haysusa.com/html/water\\_conservation.html](http://www.haysusa.com/html/water_conservation.html)  
<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>

For information on drought-resistant plants:  
[www.hfrf.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=731](http://www.hfrf.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=731)  
[www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF1046.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF1046.pdf)

For lawns:

<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF2803.pdf>