Electric Saving Tips

1. HVAC thermostat setting- 68 Winter, 78 Summer.
2. Turn off your computer, lights, TVs and other appliances when they aren't being used.
3. Replace existing light bulbs with lower wattage bulbs. Use fluorescent light or long life bulbs.
4. Set refrigerator/freezer on power saver mode.
5. Ensure your refrigerator door seals tightly.
6. Leave 25cm of space on either side of your refrigerator for optimal air flow.
7. Don't use heat producing appliances during the hottest part of the day.
8. Don't open the oven door when in operation.
9. Turn off the oven a few minutes before cooking is complete-the heat in the oven will finish the job.
10. Empty your dryer lint trap after every load.
11. Weather strip doors, windows, attic accesses etc.
12. Don't overuse your dryer – hang clothes whenever possible.
13. Clean the filter on your dryer after every load.
14. Remove dust from air registers, air returns, and appliance coils.
15. Change air filters once a month.
16. Keep outside A/C or heat pumps units clear of shrubs, grass, leaves, etc.

Water Saving Tips

1. Water Heater set at 120 degrees.
2. Air dry dishes- use the energy saving cycle on your dishwasher. Wash full loads or run the dishwasher on a shorter cycle if necessary.
3. Scrape do not rinse the food off of dishes.
4. Install faucet and shower flow restrictors.
5. Use a garbage for (facial tissues, tooth floss) instead of the toilet.
6. Make sure toilets are not leaking (toilet flappers should be replaced every 2-5 years).
7. Install high efficiency toilets with a flush volume of 4.8 liters or less (toilets use more water than anything in your home).
8. Replace shower heads with low flow models.
9. Take short showers (a five minute shower with an old showerhead can easily use 100 liters of water).
10. Fill the tub only halfway when bathing the kids.
11. Turn off the tap when shaving or brushing your teeth.
12. Wash only full loads of laundry. Set the water level appropriately if you must wash a small load of laundry.
13. Install water heater insulation blanket if your water heater is exposed to elements. Also insulate water pipes to and from water heater.

Do you let the hose run?

Letting water run from a hose while washing a car or any other chore can waste a large amount of water.
1/2-inch hose = 7-9 gallons/minute
5/8-inch hose = 10-15 gallons/minute
3/4-inch hose = 14-20 gallons/minute

Faucets without aerators use:
5 gallons per minute
300 gallons per hour
7200 gallons per day

With aerator:
2.5 gallons per minute
150 gallons per hour
3600 gallons a day

A pool evaporates ¼ inch of water daily.
For example- if you have a 10x10 pool at ¼ inch of evaporation a day that's 10 gallons a day- 480 gallons a month.
Some pools have auto fill and auto fills can fail which can cause increased water usage.

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How often should you check for leaks?
It is recommended that you check your home for leaks twice a year. Even new toilets can leak and most toilet leaks are silent so it's important to check for leaks.

Take the leaky toilet test-
To find out if your toilet is wasting water, remove the tank lid of your toilet and follow these simple steps:

1. **Drop -** Put several drops of food coloring into the toilet tank and wait 20 minutes.
2. **Peek –** Look into the bowl. If the water changes color you've got a leak.
3. **Repair –** Leaking toilets will make your water bill increase. Repair the toilet.

How can I check the calibration of my water meter?

If you are questioning the accuracy of the water meter, there is a test that you can perform to check this. Perform the following steps:

TO ENSURE TEST ACCURACY, PLEASE PERFORM THE FOLLOWING STEPS BEFORE BEGINNING THE TEST:
Make sure that no water is being used at the time of the test (i.e. dishwasher, shower, faucet, toilet running etc.)
Empty a 1 gallon container into the 5 gallon bucket five times and mark the top of the water level with a black permanent marker to determine exact level for 5 gallons of water in the bucket. Empty the bucket; and you are now ready to begin the test.

1. Run water from the hose bib until the sweep hand on the meter dial is located at "0". Have one person stationed at the meter to monitor the sweep hand.
2. Place a 5 gallon bucket underneath the outside hose bib, making sure that it is level on the ground.
3. Fill the bucket to the 5-gallon level and shut the water off.
4. The sweep hand on the meter should now be located on the "5" representing 5 gallons of water has passed through the meter.

If you have completed the test and you still have questions or concerns please contact our office for further assistance at 817-573-1114.

Use your water meter to detect leaks

1. Turn off all taps and water appliances (ice makers) in the home
2. Watch the triangle shaped dial on your meter
3. If it keeps turning, you have a leak
4. Check the toilet, taps, hot water heater, and water softener for leaks. If your irrigation system runs off the house meter check it as well.

To detect even the smallest leak, turn off all fixtures and record your water reading. Leave your home for a few hours or more. If the reading changes while you are away you may have a leak.

Water conservation tips for your sprinkler systems-
The amount of water that your sprinkler system uses can vary due to many factors. These factors include but are not limited to the amount of sprinklers that you have, the time each is watering, the amount of zones that you have watering, the kind of sprinklers that you have installed etc.

Test your system-
If you are not familiar with your system, or are a new homeowner plan to test your system. Turning on the system and walking the property are the best ways to observe what and how you are watering. Make sure your sprinklers are indeed watering your yard and not the sidewalks, driveway, or street. Make necessary adjustments to get the most out of your system. If you see that an area is adequately being watered by one sprinkler and another sprinkler is duplicating the area make the necessary adjustments to avoid over watering. Walk water lines to make sure there are no leaks in the system. Keep an eye out for areas that "pool" or ground that seems saturated. Make sure your sprinklers are installed and spraying straight up. This sounds simple, but this helps by reducing the spray angle. Reducing the spray angle helps the sprinklers deliver water to the landscaped area. Take notes as you go along so that if you need to have a landscaper service your system you will have the facts.

New Home Owners-
It is common for homebuilders to "establish" new lawn and plants. Landscapers may have the system set to maximize watering during this time. Be proactive and adjust the system when moving in to suit your needs while observing Granbury's Stage two drought restrictions. (wwwgranbury.org)

How long should you water?
If you are unsure of how long to water your landscape install a moisture sensor to monitor the amount of water your plants/yard is receiving. Mulch is your friend, just a few inches of mulch can retain moisture in your soil, reducing the amount you need to water. It also protects your planter areas, bushes, garden, etc. from weeds and can add needed nutrients to the soil, making your plants the greenest around!