Eastman's Most Basic Resource

TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

- Be alert for leaks: toilet running, water appearing where it's never been before, hissing sound, sudden rise in water bill.
- Use a rain barrel and soaker hoses to water plants during the cooler parts of the day.
- Instead of a lawn, consider native plants, terraces, ground cover, and mulch.
- Use energy/water-saving appliances such as faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads and low-volume toilets.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- When washing hands or brushing teeth, run water only when necessary, not all the time.
- Scrape or rinse dishes in a few inches of water in a dishpan instead of under running water.
- Avoid use of sink garbage disposal by composting vegetable waste year round.
- Reduce use of dishwasher and washing machine by running full loads.
- Use a commercial car wash; it filters and reuses water.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING BURST WATER PIPES OR HOSES

Avoid expense, damage, and water loss

Long-term measures:

- Insulate pipes in unheated areas, such as crawl space or garages.
- Seal access doors, air vents, and cracks through which winter winds infiltrate.
- Ensure all windows are closed and repaired if needed to minimize cold air infiltration.
- Replace washing machine hoses every three years; replacing with stainless steel mesh hoses will extend the hose life.

Everyday actions:

- Turn off outdoor garden hoses at the faucet, thus relieving any pressure on the hose.
- Turn off washing machine hoses at their valves when finished with a load of laundry.
  Burst washing machine hoses are one of the most common causes of water damage in homes.

In October each year:

- Turn off the valve that provides water to any automatic irrigation systems.

On really cold nights:

- Keep cupboard doors open under sinks to allow warmer air from the house to circulate around the water pipes.
- If you have pipes in a poorly insulated area, trickle a little water out of a sink faucet all night. Collect the water in a bucket if possible and use it to flush a toilet or water your indoor plants.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING BURST WATER PIPES OR HOSES (continued)

If going away for several nights in the summer:

- Close the main valve where the water pipe enters your home, which is near the water meter.

If going away in the winter with reduced heat on:

- It is generally recommended to leave the heat at 50 degrees to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Determine if your heating system uses make up water. This is typically either a baseboard hot-water heating system or a boiler associated with a forced hot-air system. Homes with these systems should not turn off the water supply if the heat is left on. If this is the case for your heating system:
  - Keep cupboard doors open under sinks to allow warmer air from the house to circulate around the water pipes.
  - Turn off the water supply to each toilet.
- Homes with a heating system that does not require make up water should close the main valve near the water meter where the water pipe enters your home.

If going away in the winter with no heat on:

- Close the main valve where the water pipe enters your home, which is near the water meter.
- Drain the pipes in your system; you may wish to have this done professionally.
- Turn off curb stop valve located at the side of the street, which must be done by the VDE. Call the VDE office at 603-863-6512. There is no charge to turn it off; there is a fee to turn it back on.

WE, AS HOMEOWNERS, CAN PARTNER WITH VDE IN PRESERVING OUR GROUND WATER SOURCE SYSTEM BY CONSERVING WATER AND PROTECTING ITS QUALITY.

Contact the Village District of Eastman with any questions about your water system at 603.863.6512 or admin@eastmanh2o.org, or visit eastmanh2o.org

This information is brought to you by the VDE and Sustainable Eastman. To learn more about sustainable practices at Eastman, visit eastmannh.org and sign in as a resident. Scroll over Governance, click on Our Environment, and in the drop-down menu go to Sustainable Eastman.