

This past winter has been an unusual one in Cache Valley, because of the warm temperatures and the lack of snow that we normally see. In Smithfield, as well as the lower elevations of the surrounding mountains, there is a noticeable difference in the snow pack. This phenomenon has raised a concern for many of the water users in the area, as well as downstream water users.

Smithfield Residents are fortunate because we benefit from the planning and the efforts that our forefathers put into the culinary water system. Because we are in this position it allows us to have a good supply of water from our groundwater sources, but with the dryer than normal conditions we are expecting our culinary water sources to experience high demand this summer, so we are reminding residents of the importance of conserving culinary water

Our springs and wells that provide the water for the city have been reliable, however it is important to remember that Utah consumes more water per capita than most any other state in the United States, and, we are one of the driest! Conservation and reduced water use are important to everyone and we all need to do our part. Here are a few methods that we will help us to conserve this precious natural resource:

We can use less water inside the home if we can make sure that appliances are operated when they are full. That means running the dishwasher when it is full and not just to wash a few dishes. This suggestion also applies to appliances such as the clothes washer.

Another way to conserve water indoors is to take showers instead of baths. It takes 50 to 70 gallons to fill the tub with water, and the average shower takes between 10 and 20 gallons water. When this use is calculated daily, the savings add up to a significant amount.

Fixing leaky faucets is also an excellent way to save water. It doesn't matter if it's the sink or a leaky toilet valve. That water is going directly down the drain and is unused. Fixing a leaky faucet will not only save you money on your water bill and will help prevent future damage to the leaking valve. As you fix or inspect your faucets also make sure that they have an aerator installed on the outlet. The aerator helps reduce the amount of flow that is coming out of the spout.

On the outside of the home, a good way to make sure you're getting the full use of your water is to water in the cool morning hours. This helps reduce the amount of the water that is evaporated. Evaporated water is wasted and not used by the plants or lawn. It is also a good idea to let your plants and lawn develop a deeper root structure. This can be done by following the advice given at the following web site. <http://www.lawn-care-academy.com/grass-root-growth.html>

Remember that we all need to use this natural resource wisely, both for ourselves and for those who live downstream.