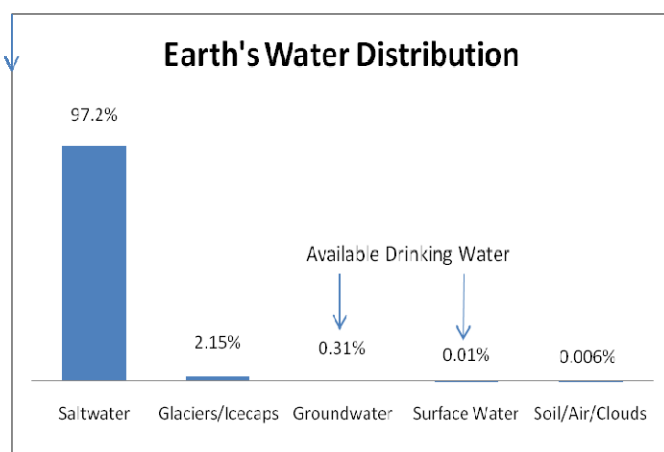


Saving Water, Saving Energy, Saving Money

Water Conservation Tips for Hadley Residents

Did you know that less than 3% of the earth's water is freshwater and less than 1% is in the form of groundwater or surface water and available for consumption?

Drinking water in the Town of Hadley is pumped from three wells and produces approximately 600,000 to 700,000 gallons of drinking water each day to the residents of Hadley. Browse some of the guidelines below to determine how you might help you and your town save water and money by changing the ways you use water. Keep in mind that you also save on your energy bills any time you are able to conserve *heated* water used for bathing and washing.



Free Ways to Save on Your Water Bills

In the Bathroom

- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth
- Take shorter showers
- Fill your bathtub halfway
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket

In the Kitchen

- Only run a full dishwasher or use a shorter cycle
- Keep cold water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the tap for cold water each time you have a drink of water
- Fill your sink and shut water off when washing and rinsing dishes by hand

Other Areas Around the House

- Run laundry washers with only full loads
- When cleaning a fish tank, use extra water for houseplants (this is a good source of fertilizer too)

Outdoors

One inch of water per week is a healthy amount of water for a lawn. Try placing a pan that is an inch deep (or more and mark 1") on your lawn to collect rain and water from your sprinkler(s). Adjust your watering schedule if the pan fills up too quickly.

- Water outdoors only during early morning or evening hours
- Make sure your sprinklers do not water sidewalks, streets and driveways
- Clean paved areas using a broom rather than a hose
- Use a rainbarrel to collect rainwater and use to water garden areas
- Plant drought tolerant plants and grass

Small Leaks Add Up to Large Amounts of Water

Leaks increase your water bills for water you are not actually using and add up to large amounts of both water and money over time. Addressing leaky faucets and pipes in your home as soon as you find them may save you hundreds of dollars each year.

If you have a dripping faucet or pipe, try the [WaterWiser Drip Calculator](#) to determine how much water you could save by repairing it.

- A drip every few seconds amounts to over 85 gallons of wasted water per month, or over 1,000 gallons per year.
- A drip per second amounts to over 250 gallons of wasted water per month, or over 3,000 gallons per year.

What Your Water Meter Can Tell You That Your Home Will Not

Locating your water meter and checking it periodically is a good way to put your household water use into perspective. If your meter is equipped with a low-flow indicator (a red triangle within the larger dial), you can also monitor your home for leaks. If the indicator is spinning while none of your water fixtures is in use, it is likely you are losing water somewhere within your home or property. By periodically noting the amount shown on the meter, you can also gauge increases in your water use between readings by the Water Department.



Invisible Leaks May Lead to an Unpleasant Surprise When You Receive Your Bill

Leaks may not always be visible like a dripping faucet or pipe. A common example is a leaking toilet valve, which is often a cause of high water bills. Check your toilets if you notice the following signs of leaks:

- You have to jiggle the handle to make the toilet stop running
- Sounds come from the toilet when it is not being used
- Water trickles into the bowl long after it was flushed
- The toilet turns on for several seconds without you touching the handle (also known as the “phantom flush”)

Your toilet may be leaking even if it does not show any of these symptoms. In this case, try a dye test. Any type of colored dye will work (try dye tablets or food coloring). Put enough dye in the toilet tank (not the bowl) to give the water a deep color and do not use the toilet for a half hour. If after about 30 minutes the water in the toilet bowl shows any color, your toilet is leaking. These leaks can be fixed by replacing the “flapper” or valve at the bottom of the toilet tank.

If you have an irrigation system for landscaping around your property, leaks in underground pipes can go unnoticed for long periods of time since they are neither seen nor heard. For these types of leaks, checking your water meter for low flows may be the best way to determine whether you are paying for leaking water.

Fix-Its and Change-Outs You Can Do around the Home

- Repair any leaking faucets, toilets or pipes soon after you find them
- Maintain insulation on your hot water pipes so that you don't need to run a faucet for any extended time to wait for warm water
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- If replacing appliances or water fixtures (e.g., toilets), look for water-efficient replacements such as WaterSense rated appliances or ultra low flush toilets.

To Learn More

Read [Tips for Saving Water Indoors and Outdoors](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Read [Tips for Saving Water at Home](#) from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Look for the [WaterSense](#) label to find quality, water-efficient products. WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.