



CVWMA Monthly Waste Reduction News

August 2002

Water Conservation – It's Good for the Environment

We all know that Central Virginia is in the midst of a serious drought. It is not only an inconvenience, but also a threat to the environment. Litter and anything harmful that can make it's way into streams, reservoirs, lakes, etc. puts added stress on our already over-burdened water supplies, and the wildlife and foliage that depend on them.

There are a few simple things we can do every day to conserve potentially thousands of gallons of water per year. Many are obvious such as repairing leaks (even a minor leak can waste 2,700 gallons of water per year), taking shorter showers and making sure that water sprinklers are watering the lawn and not the driveway or road.

Here are some other tips:

1. Recycle used dishwashing water for plants or gardens.
2. Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap everytime you want a cold drink.
3. Kitchen sink disposals require a lot of water to operate. Consider composting instead.
4. Plant drought-resistant grasses and other plants. Group plantings together based on similar watering needs.
5. Mulch your plantbeds and flowerbeds. This retains moisture and helps to control weeds.
6. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn off sprinklers and hoses. The garden hose can use up 600 gallons of water in only a few hours.

7. Raise the lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. A longer lawn shades the root system and holds in moisture better than a short lawn.
8. Use a commercial carwash that recycles water instead of washing your car at home.
9. Avoid recreational water toys that require a continuous stream of water.

Every drop counts, even when we're not in a drought. For more tips, check out www.americanwater.com/49ways.htm.

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Program News....

- Exciting changes to the Drop-Off Program implemented by September 1, 2002
 - Expansion of Chesterfield County's curbside program September through November
 - Visit www.cvwma.com for more information
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Keep Recycling... It Makes A Difference Each Day!

Visit our website, www.cvwma.com for the Program Year 2002 statistics. With your help, CVWMA collected over **33,000 tons** of materials from the curbside and drop-off programs. Thank you for doing your part to recycle in Central Virginia.

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Trash Collection Hotline: (804) 425-0500
Website: www.cvwma.com

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) is a public service authority that implements solid waste management and recycling programs for 13 local governments.