



## What's wrong with pet waste?

- Unlike wildlife waste, pet waste is nutrient dense. Cities and towns have lots of pets, and these excess nutrients harm local lakes and wetlands by producing excess algae.
- Excess algae poses risks for toxic algae blooms and impairs water quality for wildlife and people (fishing, recreation, etc.).
- Since pet waste is so rich in nutrients, it can take a single pile up to a year to break down.
- Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites that can make people and pets sick.
- Pet waste could ruin someone's day in just one unlucky step!



## Help keep people safe & water clean:

**Don't wait:** More time on the ground is more opportunity to contaminate lakes, streams, and wetlands.

**Remember** to bring a baggie when going out for walks or to a park.

**Scoop it, bag it, trash it.**

# Water Conservation Tips

## What can we do to conserve water?

- ◆ Choose a sprinkler that disperses water low and in drops opposed to a high mist.
- ◆ Pay attention to rainfall and adjust watering schedules accordingly, in addition to odd/even watering days. Turf generally needs just 1"/week. Water in early morning/ evening.
- ◆ Consider allowing a dormant or slightly dormant "tan" look. Dormancy is a normal part of turf grass' annual cycle.
- ◆ Never water pavement. Stray irrigation heads are often an easy fix, and sprinkler placement can always try to keep water on the lawn.
- ◆ Mow lawn at 3" or more to encourage deeper roots that hold more moisture. This also buffers times of drought.
- ◆ Try introducing native plants, a bee lawn, sedge ground covers, or low-mow fescues.

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## Water conservation in the home:

- ◆ Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge to reduce time spent waiting for the faucet to change temperature.
- ◆ Try "army showers" that turn the water off when lathering, and aim for 3-5 minutes total.
- ◆ Check toilets and faucets for leaks often and make repairs quickly.
- ◆ Visit commercial car washes to send wash water and road gunk to a water treatment plant. Driveway washing sends this material to local waterways. To be adventurous at home, try washing cars on the lawn.

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## Other ways to help:

- ◆ Visit your local watershed website for more water tips and cost-share grants for yard and drainage improvements.
- ◆ Visit [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org) to adopt a nearby stormdrain and volunteer to keep it clean.

**ADOPT  
A STORM  
DRAIN**

