



## **GREEN TIPS**

*for advertising and  
the answering service*

### **INDOORS**

- run the dishwasher only when completely full; soak dishes and pans rather than running water while scraping; no need to rinse if dishwasher is new (they clean more thoroughly than older models)
- use no more than one glass per day which will cut down on dishwasher loads
- store drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid running water until it's cold enough
- install an instant hot water dispenser at the kitchen sink to avoid running water until it's hot enough
- when defrosting food, avoid using running water; use the refrigerator or microwave
- when washing hands, turn the water off while you lather up
- shorter showers! 5 minutes or less...
- if taking a bath, plug the drain *before* turning the water on and adjust temperature as tub fills up
- install a water conservation shower head
- have all running toilets repaired; make sure flappers are not stuck in the open position after flushing
- consider replacing older model toilets with water efficient toilets
- drop tissue in the trash to avoid unnecessary flushing
- run laundry only when there are full loads to run; avoid running smaller loads
- install low-flow aerators on all sink faucets
- water plants thoroughly but less frequently

### **OUTDOORS**

- check sprinkler system frequently and adjust so only the landscape is watered (not the house, sidewalk or street); check sprinkler valves for leaks and keep the heads in good condition
- water during morning hours when temperature is cooler to avoid evaporation and allow for better absorption; avoid watering on windy days; only water when necessary
- use sprinkler system only on larger areas; water small patches by hand; set a timer when using a sprinkler system or when watering a lawn or garden by hand
- install a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers; be careful not to overwater
- put down a layer of mulch to slow absorption and discourage weed growth; weed regularly; weeds compete with plants for water, nutrients and light
- bathe your pet or let the kids run under the sprinkler on the lawn or another area in need of water
- when washing a car, install a hose nozzle on the hose and turn off the water while lathering up
- check all outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks; a leak check should be conducted twice a year
- sweep the sidewalk and driveway rather than hosing them down
- cover up pools and spas to reduce evaporation

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

- read the water meter before and after a two hour period of no water being used; there is a leak somewhere if the meter does not read exactly the same way before and after
- install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering
- winterize outdoor spigots, in the event of the temperature dipping below 20 degrees, to prevent pipes from freezing or bursting; know where the master shut-off valve is located
- insulate hot water pipes
- check water meter and bill to track usage