

September Tip of the Month: Water Conservation by Joan Paskewitz

100% of Colorado is now under drought conditions. The sole source of untreated water for the Water District is the Little Thompson River watershed. The river ceases to run by late July most years, and this year is no exception. The reservoir and tanks are available during dry spells, but there is no guarantee of raw water availability. Before the reservoir was put into service in 2010, some years water needed to be hauled in by truck at considerable expense.

Residents must be especially concerned with leaks during this time, and truly at all times. A running toilet or leaking faucet can consume thousands of gallons very quickly. Fix leaks promptly or call the Water District for assistance in locating a leak. A water main leak may appear as a wet spot or puddle, or water running in a ditch; report such promptly.

The State of Colorado Augmentation Plan for Pinewood Springs stipulates a strict 200 gallons per day per residence limit, which the Water District interprets as 6,000 gallons per month. This Plan requires PWS to provide an "augmentation" to the river in periods of low flow. Therefore, conservation measures by residents reduce the chance and/or delay the time that we will be required to stop drawing water from the river.

No outdoor use of water is permitted.

These limitations also apply to residences within the Water District that have wells. Conservation of water must be a daily goal of all residents, so that everyone has sufficient water for basic needs. There are a variety of hints that can help conserve water. The Pinewood Springs Property Owners Association (PSPOA) will get the ball rolling with a few, and open the discussion for others to contribute.

- Always fill a container with water when running the water to heat it for dishes, showers, and other tasks. It can be used on plants, for pets, or to flush the toilet.
- Turn the water off while soaping hands or face or in the shower, or brushing teeth.
- Use a basin for washing and rinsing dishes. Do not let the water run.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes to go into a dishwasher.
- Buy and use rain barrels for outside watering. Place under downspouts.
- Fill hot tubs with purchased water or that collected from the roof.
- Use water-absorbing soil or added granules, such as vermiculite, to help keep moisture in plant pots.
- Xeriscape with native, low moisture plants. Once they are settled in, they need no additional moisture. If planting a tree, consider the cost of having water trucked in as part of the investment.

To add to the list, send suggestions to PinewoodSpringsPOA@gmail.com.

Suggestions will appear with this Tip on the website PinewoodSpringsPOA.com.