

TOILETS, PIPES AND TIMERS, OH MY!

Are you curious about what causes the highest water-use in the home? Could it be long showers? Or, maybe running multiple loads of dishes or clothes? Nope! Really high water use usually comes from three things: **leaking toilets, leaking pipes and excessive sprinkler schedules**. City staff have found numerous toilet leaks resulting in more than 50,000 gallons of water waste per month! Even higher water use can come from leaking pipes and from sprinkler timers set to run too long. So, what can you do about it? First, check your toilet! Is it filling up by itself? If so, get it fixed quick. Second, check your sprinkler timer and make sure you don't have too many start times. Only one start time needs to be set because each zone will be watered in sequential order from a single start time. Third, sign up for free leak alerts! The City now offers a Water Portal, so you can review your water use and be notified if there is a leak anywhere in your system. Learn more by visiting wsac.city/waterportal.



GAME DAY PARTY PLANNING



Are you planning a party for the playoffs, The Big Game or March Madness? Use these simple tips to help eliminate waste, and make it a game day to remember:

- Send out invitations electronically. Canva.com has some great party invitation templates, many of which are free! Pro tip: In the invitation, ask your guests to bring a container for leftovers.
- Buy less food than you think you need! Serve finger foods planning for 12 bites per person; and offer at least 5 different nibbles.
- Use items from your sports closet to decorate. A football helmet, cheer pom-pom, team jersey, and/or a basketball can all help set the stage. Don't have these items? Check with your guests to see if they have sports memorabilia they'd like to bring.
- Use real cups, plates, napkins, and silverware rather than single use products.
- Make sure the dishwasher is empty when guests arrive.
- Put your recycling, food scrap and trash bins next to each other near the kitchen sink. Label each bin so your guests know what to put where.

Remember to enjoy the game! In the end it's all about enjoying the company of friends. With a little bit of forethought you can minimize waste and make clean up quick and easy.



PYRETHROID PESTICIDES IN OUR WATER

Pyrethroids are man-made chemicals found in many pesticide products. They are good at managing pests. However, these chemicals become a problem in our waterbodies because they don't break down easily in the environment; and can harm aquatic plants and animals long after the pesticide has been applied. A Pyrethroid's active ingredient almost always end in **-thrin**. Be sure to read the labels of pesticide products and avoid products with the following active ingredients:

- *Permethrin*
- *Bifenthrin*
- *Cyfluthrin*
- *Beta-cyfluthrin*
- *Cypermethrin*
- *Deltamethrin*
- *Lambda-cyhalothrin*
- *Tralomethrin*
- *Esfenvalerate (an exception to the -thrin rule!)*

Look for "point-of-purchase" displays, such as shelf edging or tags, display stands with fact sheets, banners, and other educational materials that can guide you in purchasing less-toxic products.

RECYCLEBELLE SAYS "TIME TO TURN THE SPRINKLERS OFF!"



Chilly weather and raindrops signal it's time to turn your sprinkler timer off! The good news is that when you turn the timer off, it still remembers your schedule. If you are looking for an even more hands-off solution, consider our Smart Controller Rebate. You can get up to \$150 for purchasing a smart sprinkler timer. These devices will automatically turn your sprinklers off for you before it rains!

Learn more at wsac.city/water.