

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

Vol. 3, #5



*Water is an
increasingly
precious
commodity...*

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Home Energy Use

Part III

A few water saving tips...

Thinking Water Smart—

Water is becoming an increasingly precious commodity and one of these days we'll find our consumption metered.

So why not get a jump start on conserving this precious resource by implementing some of the following strategies?

Tips for saving water in the bathroom—

- ⇒ Replace regular showerheads with the low-flow kind and reduce your water consumption by as much as 40%, saving up to 10 litres of water per minute
- ⇒ Multi-setting showerheads – there are several showerheads with settings such as pause, spray, pulse, turbo pulse, and outsider spray. These functions let you save on water—which in turn also saves on heating costs
- ⇒ Install toilet flush water savers – this device can save as much as 25% of your water consumption
- ⇒ Repair leaking toilets and save as much as 100 litres per day
- ⇒ Use a wastepaper basket instead of the toilet for tissues, dental floss and other trash, and save 6—25 litres per flush

- ⇒ Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth or shave
- ⇒ Take the 5-minute challenge—for every minute you reduce your showering time you'll save 10—20 litres of water

In the kitchen—

- ⇒ Avoid washing dishes or vegetables in running water – fill the sink halfway
- ⇒ Repair dripping taps—one drop per second amounts to 32 litres of water every day

Outdoors—

- ⇒ Water less often—frequent watering will encourage plants to grow shallow roots that dry out easily
- ⇒ Water thoroughly applying approximately 1 inch of water—not more than once per week—deep watering such as this is far better than frequent shallow watering
- ⇒ In spring water only once a week and increase this only when hot dry summer weather arrives—keep in mind the watering restrictions
- ⇒ Consider changing your landscaping to include more plants that require minimum watering—try grouping plants together according to their water requirements

Doing it Right



*Water early
in the day to
prevent
evaporation
and scorch-
ing...*

- ⇒ Aerate your lawn to allow air, water and fertilizer to reach the roots more easily
- ⇒ Raise the height of your lawn mower blade to 2—3 inches—taller grass shades and cools the soil reducing the need for water
- ⇒ Position sprinklers so that they water only the areas that need watering
- ⇒ Turn off your automatic sprinkler system if it rains
- ⇒ Water before 9 am to help reduce evaporation as well as the scorching which comes from water-magnified sun
- ⇒ Water on calm days to prevent wind drift and evaporation
- ⇒ Water slowly to avoid run-off while giving the soil time to absorb the water
- ⇒ Regularly check your hose or irrigation equipment for leaks or blockages
- ⇒ Use a broom, not the hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks

A final thought...

Start small and implement just one change a week or even one per month—make it as painless as possible so you'll stick with it.

Each step you take will impact your water consumption rates—by the time the city starts metering your water usage you and your pocketbook will have nothing to fear.

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒ Efficient Heating and Cooling
- ⇒ Keeping the Weather Out
- ⇒ Sealing the Leaks

For more information:

on how we can assist you with turning your house into your dream home while making it more energy efficient—or if you have any questions—call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D₄ – All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on workmanship