

The Town of Riverhead Riverhead Water District Water News



District Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Over the past 25 years, the Riverhead Water District has grown significantly to meet the changing needs of our community. The District was extended to areas of the Town where existing homes utilized private wells that had a concern for possible contamination and needed a safe and reliable water supply. Development of both residential and commercial areas occurred which also pushed for the expansion of the Water District service area. And the change in our everyday actions significantly increased our daily water use demands, mostly due to the availability of automatic irrigation systems.

In addition, the demand for public water has increased by 600 percent over this 25 year period. During this same period, the Riverhead Water District has implemented capital improvement projects to increase its water supply and storage capacity. We have constructed new supply wells, new storage tanks and new transmission mains. However, "The demand for water during the peak summer days continues to increase at a significant rate," stated Supt. Gary Pendzick.

Supt. Gary Pendzick added, "We are currently proceeding with the implementation of adding additional capacity with new supply wells in Jamesport that should be ready for this summer." In addition, the District has started the process of constructing an additional supply well in Calverton that should be available by next year.



The District maintains a total of 13 supply wells. On a typical day in November through March, the District only needs to run four (4) of these wells. However, for a few days a year, during the hot and dry periods of the summer, the District needs all 13 wells running to meet the demand and continue to maintain adequate fire flow protection.



"The only other option to continuing to construct additional supply wells and storage tanks at a cost of several million dollars is to implement an effective water conservation plan", stated Supervisor Phil Cardinale. "By modifying the way the residents of the District use our water, we feel we can reduce our water use and ensure we have a sufficient supply of water for our needs during the periods of high water demand", continued Supervisor Cardinale.

Working with Supt. Gary Pendzick, the Town and District hopefully have developed a new water conservation plan that will reduce our peak water use by 10 percent. However, we need the cooperation of the residents of the District to implement the plan. It is imperative that all residents follow the conservation plan procedures and tips. If we do not succeed, we may need to implement more stringent water restriction measures this summer.

Should any resident have questions concerning our water conservation plan, please call the Water District at 631.727.3205.



Phil Cardinale - Town Supervisor

Barbara Blass - Councilwoman

John Dunleavy - Councilman

James Wooten - Councilman

Gary Pendzick
Water District Superintendent

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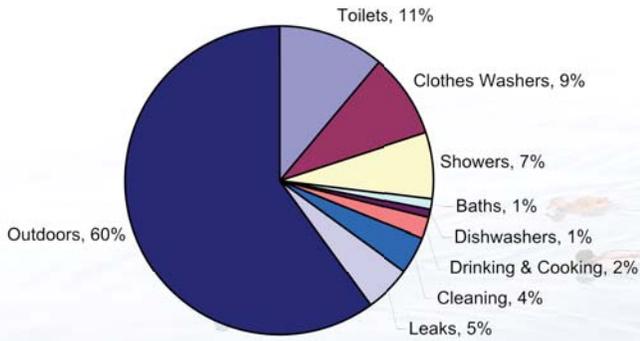
www.riverheadli.com

AND HOW MUCH WATER DO I USE?

Do you know how much water the average person in Riverhead uses?

Thirty gallons a day? Fifty gallons a day? Try 130 gallons a day! And that increases to over 300 gallons per day on the peak summer days when you include lawn irrigation. But we only use 2 to 5 gallons per day for drinking and cooking.

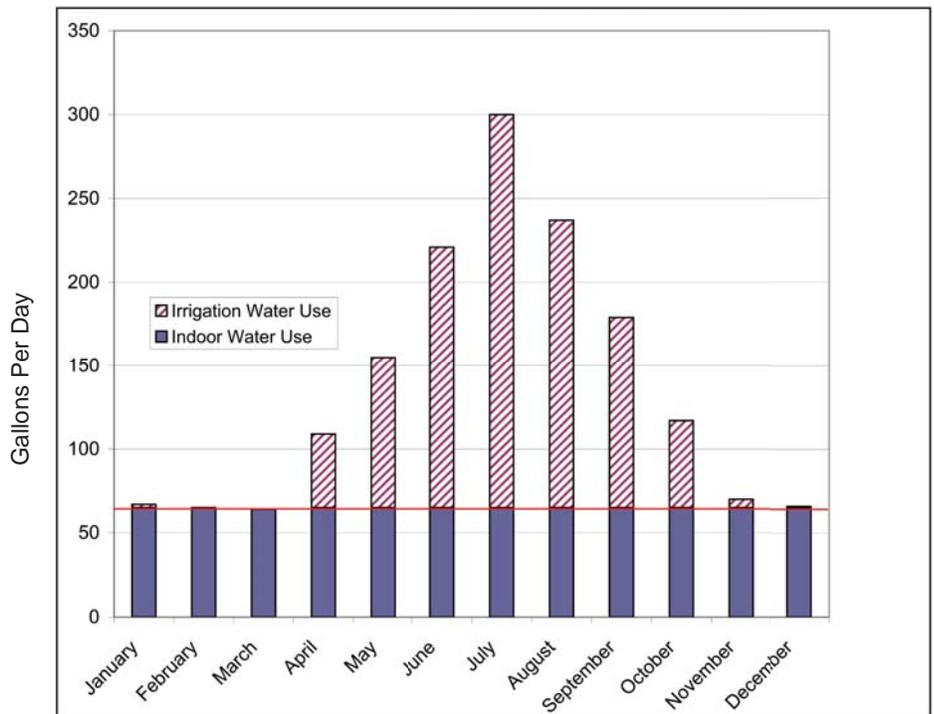
The rest includes bathing/showering, laundry and flushing the toilet. We use approximately 65 gallons per day for our indoor use. It adds up and we take it for granted that we will always have a safe and reliable source of water at our tap every morning we wake up.



Typical Daily Water Use
Source: AWWA



Imagine what it would be like if we did not have a sufficient supply of safe drinking water. That's why we all most take our new water conservation program seriously. All residents of the Riverhead Water District should implement the water conservation measures listed in this newsletter to help the Water District, as well as save money.



Average Daily Water Use Per Person



ODD AND EVEN TO REDUCE THE PEAK BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Riverhead Water District has implemented voluntary lawn irrigation restrictions that will only permit the watering of a lawn every other day, based on the addresses number of your home. ODD number houses will only be allowed to water on ODD days of the month. EVEN number houses will be only be allowed to water on EVEN days of the month.



During the hottest summer day, approximately 80 percent of all the water being supplied by the Riverhead Water District goes directly to lawn irrigation, with over 70 percent of all homeowners having an irrigation system. They are great for keeping our lawns green throughout the summer, but they are putting a tremendous strain on our precious water supply system. The real question is, do we need to water everyday?

Horticultural specialists have determined that it is better for a lawn to be irrigated less frequently than daily to promote deep root growth. And the Cornell Cooperative Extension recommends that Long Island lawns only need 1 inch of rain or irrigation per week.

The Riverhead Water District is recommending that all homeowners with automatic irrigation systems set up their control panels to operate every other day. You may also want to install a rain sensor that will shut down the irrigation system during rain events.





Do you know how often you turn me on?

If only the water faucet could talk to us. It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, to wash our clothes, to prepare our food, to provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy. It might remind us that the water pipes below our streets make so many everyday conveniences possible.

Our water bills pay to keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us — 24/7 without fail. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.riverheadli.com/water-district.html



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 Riverhead Water District
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 Riverhead, New York 11901

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OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Irrigation restrictions on an every other day basis is the prime action of our Water Conservation Program. But there are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:



- Don't irrigate during heat of day. Studies have shown that up to 50% of the irrigation water applied during the middle of the day (10 am and 4 pm) is lost to evaporation and never makes it to the roots of the lawn.



- Install a rain sensor onto your irrigation system to shut down your automatic irrigation system when it is raining. Let nature do its own thing!

- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day. Multiply that by the hundreds of faucets that could be leaking on any given day, that adds up to a lot of wasted water!



- Store a pitcher of water in your refrigerator rather than letting it run until cold every time you want a cold glass of water.



- Don't let the faucet run when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on and off when needed.

For more conservation tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.