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## SUMMER 2020 WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

The purpose of our quarterly water conservation newsletters is to help us all be mindful of the need to conserve water in our daily lives. The THDWID's webpage at [www.tontohillswater.org](http://www.tontohillswater.org) has a section under DWID Documents dedicated to information on water conservation. There you will find many helpful suggestions on ways to find water leaks and tips to reduce water usage.

A primary responsibility of the District is to communicate the need for water conservation. As we mentioned last quarter, it has been over 10 years since the community purchased the old water company assets. Our records of water usage show three major areas where conservation opportunities have been missed or unintended water loss has occurred. Last quarter, we summarized the significance of hidden waterless and mitigation solutions. This second newsletter in the series focuses on worn out house service fixtures or outdated appliances.

### Part 2 - In House Fixtures

Most older toilets, shower heads, and appliances that use water are neither energy nor water-use efficient. By examining and evaluating the condition of your in-house fixtures and appliances, you may find a number of ways to conserve water.

**Toilets** - If the water level float in the water tank has not been adjusted correctly, water overflows constantly into the overflow tube and is wasted. If the rubber stopper at the bottom of the tank does not seal properly or has deteriorated over time, water is able to seep from the tank and down the drain. A leaking toilet many times can be detected by hearing continuous running water. There is a more certain way to detect water leaks in the toilet water tank and that is by putting a few drops of food coloring in the water of the tank and waiting for a few minutes to see if the colored water in the tank runs into the toilet basin. Colored water in the toilet basin would indicate that the tank's rubber stopper has a leak and needs to be replaced. An occasional inspection of the water level of the tank can indicate if the float -controlled water level is proper so as to not allow over flow.

Low water use toilets can save over 12,000 gallons per year when you consider that each person on average flushes the toilet eight times a day. Low flow toilets can now flush using 1.2 to 1.3 gallons of water per flush. New toilets can be purchased with dual flush systems that can save additional water when flushing as they provide reduced water usage when flushing liquid wastes.

**Low Flow Fixtures** - Low flow shower heads and sink and faucet aerators have become very common and can be purchased in almost every building supply or hardware store. The principal used in these fixtures is mixing air in the flow stream to increase the perceived volume without increasing actual water usage. Still, the best practice is to limit time in the shower and to not let faucets run continuously when we use them.

When considering changing any water-using appliance or fixture, look for the "Water Sense" label as this assures that the appliance or fixture has been tested and approved for its water saving abilities.