



HOUSEHOLD WATER EFFICIENCY

Here are a few recommendations to improve your homes water use efficiency.

Testing for Leaks

If you have a water meter, periodically check for hidden water leaks by recording the water meter reading in the late evening and again in the early morning, or before and after any long period when there is no water use. Compare the reading to determine whether there was any water leakage over that period. If the meter indicates water use during the night, track down the source and have it repaired. Some water meters have a red triangular dial beside the numbers that record the volume of water used. This dial turns when water is running through the meter. If the dial is moving while there is no water being used in the house, there is a water leak somewhere.

Hidden leaks can be difficult to find. The dye test can be helpful in discovering toilet leaks. Sometimes you can hear a trickle of water when the taps are turned off. If you still can't determine the source, you may need to do some detective work to find the leak. One good place to start is in the laundry room. Some older-style laundry tub taps have a tube that connects to the floor drain. When the tap is turned on some water trickles into the floor drain. (The water in the floor drain stops sewer gas odors from entering the house). When the tap is closed, the water should stop trickling. Worn washers can allow the water to continue to flow to the floor drain and be the source of the leak.

Water Saving Devices for Toilets

If replacing an older model, high-flow toilet is not an option, consider retrofitting your existing toilet or toilets with flow reducing mechanisms. These devices reduce the flow of water in the toilet through displacement or retention, or by altering the flushing mechanisms. Although these devices can save a lot of water over the life of the toilet, it is important to select the right one. Be sure to check with your toilet's manufacturer before purchasing or installing on of these devices. Your municipality's water works department may have valuable information on the different flow reducing devices available and their efficiency, so be sure to inquire before making a purchase.

To find out more about water efficiency in your home, please contact the Odessa Office and request a free copy of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) "household Guide to Water Efficiency". You can also check the CMHC website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.