



Are you water wise?

It's really easy to be water wise, if you know what steps to take around your house. Here's a fun and easy quiz to determine how water wise you already are and what you can do to save even more water around your home! Give yourself the total points if you ALWAYS conserve, zero points if you NEVER conserve or a middle-of-the-road point estimate if you sometimes use water wisely. Be honest – are you water wise?

Outside Your House

Water Wise Activity	Bob's Perfect Score Total Points if You Always Conserve	Your Water Wise Score
Don't water your lawn if rain is predicted, and never over-water.	10 points	
Mow less often, and leave the clippings on your lawn to help nourish it and retain moisture.	10 points	
Position your sprinkler to water your lawn or gardens. Don't water sidewalks or driveways.	10 points	
If you have a pool, use a pool cover to reduce evaporation.	5 points	
Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose, and turn off the water completely when it's not in use.	10 points	
Use native plants in your landscaping that do not require a lot of water.	10 points	
Install a rain or moisture sensor on an automatic irrigation system so the system turns off when it rains, and then doesn't come back on until the lawn is actually thirsty.	5 points	
Use a broom outside to clean sidewalks and driveways, never a hose.	5 points	

Inside Your House

Water Wise Activity	Bob's Perfect Score Total Points if You Always Conserve	Your Water Wise Score
Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks – and fix them.	10 points	
Install low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucet aerators.	10 points	
Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth or shaving.	10 points	
Fill your dishwasher or clothes washer completely before you run it.	5 points	
Total Points		

75 – 100 points: Congratulations – you are super water wise, just like Bob!

50 – 74 points: You're on the right track – look for new water wise activities to adopt.

Less than 50 points: Bob recommends you review his tips pronto! Remember, every drop counts!

Be Water Wise



Additional Resources:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • www.epa.gov/watersense
- American Water Works Association • www.awwa.org/waterwise
- Water Environment Federation • www.wef.org
- Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance • www.eaglecreekwatershed.org
- Upper White River Watershed Alliance • www.whiteriveralliance.org
- Irrigation Association's consumer resource guide • www.irrigation.org

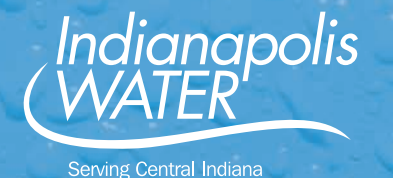
- Indianapolis Water • www.indianapoliswater.com
- Purdue University Turfgrass Program • www.agry.purdue.edu/turf
- Purdue University Extension Service • www.ces.purdue.edu
- IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Science • www.cees.iupui.edu
- Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District • www.marionswcd.org



Indianapolis Water is owned and managed by the Indianapolis Department of Waterworks and the system is operated by Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC. Since 2002, Indianapolis Water has delivered a daily average of more than 140 million gallons of safe, quality drinking water to nearly 1 million central Indiana residents and businesses.



This is Bob. He is water wise. He is going to show you how he conserves water and helps the environment. You can be water wise, too. You can be like Bob.



Hi, I'm Bob. I'm just a regular guy who wanted to do something good for the environment. So I learned how to conserve water. Here's how I do it, and how you can, too.



Why be water wise?

Our water supply is not unlimited. As the population increases around central Indiana, more people means a greater need for water. Using less water every day helps sustain our existing supply and, quite frankly, just makes good common sense!

Saving water helps the environment. Everything that grows needs water and, by using less, you're saving water for fish, animals, trees and the next generation of central Indiana residents.

Saving water saves energy. When you're water wise and use less water, you save the energy required by water treatment facilities as well as the energy required to heat the water in your own home.

Our system can keep up with the daily demand for clean, fresh drinking water. But on some days in the summer, people using water *unwisely* tax the system and push it beyond its limits. Water conservation measures help the utility live within its means and not spend money building treatment facilities that are unnecessary to meet reasonable water demands.

GO NATIVE

When landscaping, use native plants that require little or no watering. Purple Coneflower, Virginia Bluebells and Little Bluestem are a few of the many flowers and grasses native to Indiana.

Take a break

More than 1/3 of all water produced by Indianapolis Water during the summer months is used to water lawns – accounting for approximately 50–75 million gallons of water a day!

Follow the water use schedule

Indianapolis Water and turf experts from Purdue, who know about these things, recommend that people with lawns water them less frequently but more thoroughly – in fact, once a week is sufficient to sustain your lawn. Customers should voluntarily follow an odd/even schedule when using water outdoors, such as lawn, landscape and garden watering or filling swimming pools. Have an odd-numbered address? Only fulfill your outdoor watering needs on odd-numbered calendar days. If your address is even, only use water outdoors on even numbered calendar days.

Listen to your lawn

If you choose to water, do so thoroughly, early in the morning to wet the soil to the deepest root, approximately 2–4". Don't water again until footprints remain after walking or pressing on the lawn. This will actually give you a healthier lawn, because the root systems will strengthen and deepen – those are good things!

GREEN & CLEAN

Lawn fertilizers and pesticides contribute to water pollution. If needed, look for no- or low-phosphorous fertilizers, which are an excellent way to protect water quality.

If you choose not to water, stay off the grass! Limit traffic (kids, pets, mowing) to minimize crushing and water once every four weeks with ¼" to ½" of water to keep grass hydrated. This should not cause the grass to green but it will increase its long-term survival.

Save it on a rainy day

Face it. You've seen it and may have even done it. Watered your lawn while it's raining. Keep your eye on the weather forecast.

If it's likely to rain, then don't water your lawn or plants. Let nature take care of it for you. If you decide to sprinkle, avoid watering during the heat of the day to prevent evaporation and make sure you're not watering sidewalks or driveways!

SAVE UP TO
7 GALLONS
PER MINUTE
BY TURNING THE WATER
OFF WHILE BRUSHING
YOUR TEETH

New doohickies! Use technology

There are a ton of pretty cool gadgets on the market that can help you the homeowner conserve water.

A rain sensor works with an irrigation system and actually turns the system off when it starts raining. Novel concept! Rain sensors are readily available and you can easily install one yourself.

A moisture sensor goes a step further and keeps the system from turning on until the soil says it's thirsty. You'll need professional help to install this one, but it's worth it! The water you save is precious!



Let go of the hose

Admit it, you like using the hose. I know, because I've seen you out there with it. So lighten up a little. Use a broom to clean your driveway and sidewalks. Hosing them off wastes a lot of water.

Don't let the hose run when you wash your car. Wet it. Turn off the hose. Wash it. Turn on the hose. Rinse it. Use a simple shut-off nozzle on your hose instead of letting water run everywhere. If you don't have a nozzle, use it as a reason to go to the hardware store.



An easy way to detect a leak.

- Turn off all of the water in your house.
- Check your water meter.
- If the meter is turning – the numbers are moving – you might have a leak!

More tips

Most of the water you use in your home during a normal day goes right down the toilet. Yep, flushed away. So a few seconds of thought before you use that water can help save it over the long haul.

- Go with a low-flow toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush and add aerators to your older faucets. **That can save 5 gallons per minute!**
- Check your toilet flappers, faucets and pipes for leaks once or twice a year and fix them pronto! Not only will you get rid of that annoying sound of dripping water, **but you could save 100 gallons per week . . . which is about the same as a bathtub FULL of water!**
- Think at the sink. Turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your hands. **You can save up to 7 gallons per minute.**
- Don't do the dishes every night. A dishwasher uses the same amount of water no matter how many dishes are in it, so make sure it's full. It won't kill you to wait another day to wash away the remains of that nuclear meatloaf. And some dishwashers have a "water saver" cycle which saves even more water.

SAVE UP TO
20–30 GALLONS
BY TAKING A QUICK
SHOWER INSTEAD
OF A BATH

Water Conservation – Local Ordinances and Policies

In February 2009, the Indianapolis City-County Council adopted an ordinance requiring mandatory water conservation practices during times of drought. The ordinance carries fines and penalties for violators in Indianapolis who continue to use water to sprinkle grass, wash cars and clean driveways or sidewalks following the Mayor's declaration of a water warning or a water emergency. These emergency conditions luckily happen very rarely, but in the event of a critical shortage and extreme weather, the city is now prepared to protect its water supply.

Mandatory Conservation: Water Use Warning

A mandatory conservation warning could be called by the mayor when levels in either Geist or Morse Reservoirs drop to 50 percent or below capacity. Each reservoir holds approximately 6 billion gallons of water. A Water Use Warning prohibits:

- Sprinkling, watering, or irrigating of grass;
- Washing of cars, trucks, trailers, mobile homes, railroad cars or any other type of mobile equipment, except whereas required by applicable local, state, or federal law for health or safety reasons;
- Water used to clean sidewalks, driveways, paved areas, structures, buildings or other outdoor surfaces;

- Filling of empty swimming pools;
- Installation of new landscaping or new lawn by using sod until a return to normal conditions;
- Use of hydrants except for fire suppression or as otherwise directed by Indianapolis Water; and
- Operating non-recycling water fountains.

Mandatory Conservation: Water Use Emergency

A water use emergency could be called when levels in either Geist or Morse Reservoir drop to 75 percent or below their holding capacity. A Water Use Emergency prohibits the uses previously mentioned and:

- Any outdoor watering, with the exception that vegetable gardens may be watered every other day by container or hand-held hose with a shut off nozzle.

While the ordinance is enforceable only in Indianapolis, many communities surrounding Indianapolis are adopting their own Wise-Water Use policies. Check with your community to see if there's a policy on the books. If not, encourage your community to consider one and help preserve this precious resource!

Again, the ordinance will only be invoked during extreme drought conditions.

Visit www.IndianapolisWater.com for more information on how you can be water wise.

Questions? Call us! Customer Service: (317) 631-1431 • Toll Free: (877) 631-1431