

Conserve Water and Reduce Your Sewer Bill

Did you know that every time you wash your car or water your lawn that you are using precious drinking water, taking water from the base flow that supports the Jones River and increasing your sewer bill?

Please conserve water so that we can ensure that Kingston will always have the same quality drinking water supply available to us and that we will not end up with the severe water shortage conditions that many areas of our country find themselves in this year.

By limiting your outside water use you can reduce your sewer bill. It costs you \$10.40 for every 1000 gallons of water that you use. If you use 50,000 gallons of water on your lawn you are adding \$520.00 to your sewer bill. Make sure your irrigation system is set properly, does not over water your lawn, and is turned off when it is raining.

The Water Department, Jones River Watershed Association and the Sewer Commission encourage water conservation. By doing your part, you can reduce your water/sewer bill and conserve our drinking water supply.

THESE TIPS WILL HELP YOU TO SAVE MONEY AS WELL AS WATER!

1. Lawn watering should be limited to two days per week. One inch of water a week, including rainfall, is adequate. You can use a rain gage or simply put out a tuna can to measure the amount of water from sprinkling or rainfall. Over watering actually promotes a less healthy landscape.
2. Set your lawn mower to two to three inches for the healthiest lawn. Use native grasses for local conditions – fescues do well in New England. Fertilize during the cooler months of spring and fall.
3. Use soaker hoses whenever possible. They are especially effective near shrubs and trees and prevent excessive evaporation.
4. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, add a moisture sensor. There are many inexpensive models available. This will prevent the waste and expense of water when it is not needed. Make sure the sprinkler heads are aimed at landscaped areas only.
5. Water during the morning and evening hours to prevent evaporation which is increased during the hottest part of the day.
6. Consider alternatives to water dependent lawns when planning your landscaped areas. Groundcovers and mulch can lower the need for watering. Test your soils to see if they are able to hold moisture well. Adding compost and peat will help to retain water while improving plant growth.