



## Water Conservation Tips

### Do your water conservation challenges need a second set of eyes?

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) water conservation project with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is focused on industrial water users in the north and east twin cities metro area. An important part of this project is the opportunity to qualify for engineering interns to work on water conservation at your facility. If you could use help with water balances, water optimization, sewer access or strength charges, and water/energy costs, contact MnTAP now to discuss an intern project proposal.

We can support three water conservation intern projects in the MCES service area for the summer of 2015. In 2013, MnTAP had three successful water conservation projects supported by MCES outlined in our 2013 Solutions publication and another MCES intern project in 2014.

We are currently lining up projects and allocating our technical staffing capacity, and the first step is to make contact with Mick Jost, at [jostx003@umn.edu](mailto:jostx003@umn.edu) to talk about your ideas, and to arrange for a free, confidential site assessment to scope out a potential 2015 intern project. If you would like more information about our long-standing intern program and project successes, company roles and responsibilities, or how to apply, visit <http://mntap.umn.edu/intern/business.htm>.

#### ***Don't delay:***

The MnTAP intern project development and application deadline is January 15, so apply for an intern project today! After that date, our focus will be on finding the best, most qualified student to fit your project needs and fulfill the project objectives and goals.

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### Contact MnTAP for More Information



Let us know if you are interested in getting involved in this water conservation project at no cost to your business. We welcome your questions and ideas for future newsletter topics, so please send them our way! For questions or further information, contact Mick Jost, MnTAP Program Coordinator and project lead, at 612.624.4694.

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program acknowledges and appreciates the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Water Supply Planning Group expertise and project management support of this Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment sponsored project.

MnTAP is a non-regulatory program in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## Did You Know...



A drop of water seems tiny but over time it could quickly add up to a significant amount. Did you know that a 1/32" leak (about the size of a pencil period), with water pressure of 60 pounds per square inch (psi) would lose 131,040 gallons of water a year\*? If this leak is a hot water leak, energy is being wasted in addition to water. Leak prevention and repair is a relatively inexpensive way to cut down inefficient water use. Here are some suggestions on determining when there may be a water leak:

- Know your water use--track it and record it. A sudden spike in consumption without a change in production or use habit may signify a leak.
- Perform a water audit. If more water enters than exits there may be a leak.
- Determine the baseline consumption when there is no water use activity on the site. This baseline should be a good indicator of overall leakage.
- Shutoff the water supply and check the meter readings. If the meter advances this could mean underground leaks.
- For tanks, measure the water level over a period of time when there is no extraction or other activity. If the level drops lower with time, this may indicate a leak.
- Do routine leak detection and maintenance of the entire water network. Leaks may develop anywhere along the water distribution network, including unseen places such as underground water tanks and hidden pipes. Places to check include restroom and shower facilities, kitchen and food preparation spaces, washdown areas and janitor closets, water fountains, water lines, water delivery devices, process plumbing, tank overflow valves, heating and cooling areas, and landscape irrigation systems.
- Moisture, mold growth or wall surface irregularities along the water network may indicate a hidden leak.
- An unexplained warm spot on the floor may indicate an underground leak of hot water.
- Toilets may leak silently. Do a dye test by dropping a non-staining indicator specific for this purpose in the tank and checking for spread of the dye in the bowl after 15-30 minutes. The dye should never spread to the bowl. If it does a tank flapper may need replacement.
- Ultrasonic equipment for compressed air and steam trap leaks can be used for water leaks too. Water leaks, especially small ones are quiet and more difficult to find. Use solid probes on the supply piping to hear water sounds evident in slow leaks at suspect equipment.
- Get a basic handle on the impact of your leak costs for water, heated water, and sewer water using the following water leak cost calculator:

<http://fishnick.com/savewater/tools/leakcalculator/> (used with permission)

\*[http://www.burgy.org/Pages/WilliamsburgMA\\_WaterComm/leaks](http://www.burgy.org/Pages/WilliamsburgMA_WaterComm/leaks) (used with permission)



### About MnTAP

A program of the University of Minnesota, MnTAP offers a variety of technical assistance services to help Minnesota businesses implement industry-tailored solutions that maximize resource efficiency, prevent pollution, increase energy efficiency, and reduce costs. Our information resources are available online at <[mntap.umn.edu](http://mntap.umn.edu)>. Please call MnTAP at 612.624.1300 or 800.247.0015 for personal assistance.

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