

## **HOUSEHOLD TIPS FOR SAVING WATER EVERY DAY**

You pay for every drop of water you use, so why waste it? There are many places around your home that are potential water loss points: a dripping faucet can waste 3-10 gallons of water a day; a toilet could waste up to 200 gallons a day! In addition to inspecting your faucets, toilets and water-using appliances for leaks and selecting more water-efficient appliances, following are some other ways to save water.

### **In the House**

- Water plants from your freshwater fish tank.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
- Run full loads of laundry or dishes, or use the correct load size setting.
- Keep a water pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Wash vegetables in a pan or sink with a stopper.

### **In the Yard**

- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Water your lawn with one inch watering only when it needs it.
- Keep water on the lawn and off the pavement.
- Water deeply in the morning or late evening in low wind.
- Mulch around trees and plants.
- Sweep, don't hose, sidewalks and driveways.

### **In the Bathroom**

This where two-thirds of a household's water is used, so –

- Do not use the toilet instead of a trash can.
- Use a few drops of food coloring in the tank to check toilets for leaks.
- Make a lo-flow toilet by placing a weighted 1-liter plastic bottle in the tank.
- Do not run the faucet when you brush your teeth, wash your hands or shave.

## **WATERSHED 101**

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains to the same water-body. Watersheds can be as small as the area around a puddle, or as large as the watershed for the entire Maumee River, from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Maumee Bay. Watersheds include the open land, buildings and parking lots.

Do I live in a watershed? YES!! Everyone lives in a watershed. No matter how far away you live from a water-body, you have an effect on the water quality in your area.

What can I do to help with water quality? Everything that goes into a roadside ditch or down a roadside drain will eventually end up in a lake, river, or stream, potentially polluting our waterway. Here are a few simple things you can do to help improve our water quality:

- Keep all litter, grass clippings and leaf debris out of the roads and ditches.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Sweep fertilizer back onto your lawn.
- Dispose of household hazardous wastes appropriately.