

Stay off the bottle.

4 tips to help you cultivate good water-use habits that reduce your impact on the environment.

Drink from a reusable water bottle — Commercially bottled water is not regulated as strictly as tap water, so there's no true health benefit to drinking commercially bottled water, and tap water tastes just as good. Keep all that plastic out of a landfill by drinking tap water from a reusable bottle.

Stop drips and consider water-efficient appliances — A dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day. Replacing the washers in sink faucets and showerheads prevents leaks. Consider installing low-volume toilets, low-flow showerheads, and water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washing machines to conserve water and money.

Install a rain barrel — Rain barrels are a popular way to collect rain water from roofs to use for watering plants, washing cars and other needs around the home. Their use reduces pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

Get native — Choose plants that are native to your area and require less water to thrive than nonnative species. When needed, water lawns and gardens during the coolest periods of the day to reduce evaporation and water use. Always adhere to water-use restrictions when they are in effect.

For more information about using water wisely, contact Chesterfield County Utilities Department, at 804-748-1271, or visit www.chesterfield.gov/utilities.

For information about building a rain barrel or purchasing one, call the Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering at 804-748-1920.



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