



March 2012  
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Service



Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity

## The Inside Story: Water Conservation At Home



**Resist the flush.** Inside the home, water use is pretty evenly distributed among appliances, but nearly 30 percent is flushed down the toilet. Avoid unnecessary flushing and you'll save big.

**Go low-flow.** You can save thousands of gallons each year by replacing old toilets with ultra-low flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less.



**Sing in the rain.** A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10-25 gallons.

**Fill 'er up.** Running the dishwasher or washing machine when they are only half full uses just as much water as full loads.



**Turn it down.** The average bathroom faucet runs at the rate of about 2 gallons of water per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you floss and brush your teeth.

**Check hoses.** It is a good idea to replace dishwasher and clothes washer hoses every five years. Hoses don't last forever and can create devastating damage-and waste lots of water-if they fail.



**Be a drip detective.** Check all your faucets, toilets, and appliances for water leaks and fix them. A leaky faucet that fills an 8-oz. container in less than 30 minutes could waste as much as 1,225 gallons of water each year. Death to the drip!

**Conserving water is good for all of us.** Using less water means less energy is used to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping maintain our natural resources.

*Water is the original health drink. It contains no fat, no calories, no cholesterol, no caffeine, and no fats or sugars, every glass of water you drink nourishes your body and mind.*

### Fat-Free Sewers

Fats, Oils, & Greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers, too.

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

**Where does the grease come from?**

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat Fats, Food Scraps, Dairy Products
- Lard, Cooking Oil, Shortening, Sauces
- Butter and Margarine, Baking Goods

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the



insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often

- must be paid for by you, the homeowner;
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms;
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

**What we can do to help**

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call BPU's Wastewater Treatment Plant at 825-3237 or 825-3240.

H<sub>2</sub>O

The original health drink



### Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

February 2012 8.10"

February 2011 8.86"

Average Temperatures

February 2012 Hi 32 Lo 12

February 2011 Hi 25 Lo 7



## 2012 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program

Brainerd Public Utilities makes bulb recycling as easy as a trip to your local hardware store. And, we'll even help pay the recycling fee. Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs\*, and one coupon per bulb, to Brainerd Ace Hardware Store at 214 West Washington Street.
- Each coupon gives you 50 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- During 2012, Brainerd Public Utilities will redeem up to 10 coupons per household or a small business that is a BPU customer.

## Bulb Recycling Is Good For The Environment, And It's The Law

Used fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps require special care because they contain a small amount of mercury. Because mercury is harmful to the environment, Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent bulbs in household garbage.

Although fluorescent bulbs may require special care after they've burned out, they'll last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use 75 percent less energy. With today's improved lighting technology, you can get the same warm quality of light as regular bulbs.

\*Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.



**B**EFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

**N**OTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call **825-3210** or **829-2193** for more information.

 <p><b>Brainerd Public Utilities</b></p> <p><b>50¢ Off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State <u>Minnesota</u> Zip _____</p> <p><small>Coupon expires 12/31/12. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</small></p>	 <p><b>Brainerd Public Utilities</b></p> <p><b>50¢ Off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State <u>Minnesota</u> Zip _____</p> <p><small>Coupon expires 12/31/12. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</small></p>
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