



# Minnesota Rural Water Association

**Our Mission:** "To provide the latest information, education, and technical assistance to protect our public waters and improve the quality of life in Minnesota."

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## Water Conservation

### Water Use Habits

#### TYPICAL USAGE

#### GOOD, WATER-SAVING HABITS

	TYPICAL USAGE	GOOD, WATER-SAVING HABITS
Showering	20-40 gallons (5 gallons per minute)	5 gallons (wet down, soak up, rinse off)
Tub Bathing	36 gallons (full)	10-15 gallons (low-level)
Toilet Flushing	6 gallons	1.6 gallon with new standard toilet
Teeth Brushing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 pint (wet, brush, rinse briefly)
Hand Washing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Shaving	3-5 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Dish Washing	20 gallons (tap running)	5 gallons (wash, rinse, in pan or sink)
Automatic Dishwasher	15 gallons (full cycle)	DO ONLY FULL LOADS
Clothes Washer	36-60 gallons (full cycle)	DO ONLY FULL LOADS
Outdoor Watering	5-10 gallons per minute	Be sensible

### Fast Tracks

- ▷ Training Calendar
- ▷ MRWA Quizzes
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Minnesota Rural Water Association  
 217 12th Avenue SE  
 Elbow Lake, MN 56531  
 Phone: 218-685-5197  
 Fax: 218-685-5272  
 E-mail: [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com)



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 National Rural Water Association



## HOW TO ESTIMATE IRRIGATION CONSUMPTION

1. You will need to know the following information:
  - Number of zones.
  - How many minutes watering in each zone.
  - Pounds of pressure in the lines.  
(use 40 psi for low and 80 psi for high)
  - Number of days/weeks watering.
2. Calculate gallons used for each watering session - Multiply the number of zones by the number of minutes. (If you are using different times for each zone, take an average.) Then, multiply the results by the pounds of pressure in the lines.
  - Example: 3 zones are watered for 15 minutes each will give you 45 X 40psi = 1800 gallons used for each watering.
3. Calculate gallons used for a period of time - Multiply the gallons used for from the above calculation by the number of days watered. If you watered for 4 weeks, you will need to multiply the above calculation by the total number of weeks watered.
  - Example: 1800 gallons multiplied by 7 days watered = 12600 gallons used. Take the results and multiply by the number of weeks watering 12600 gallons used per week multiplied by 4 weeks in a month = 50400 gallons used for a month.

## HOW TO CALCULATE GALLONS PER MINUTE

To calculate the GPM, you need a bucket of any size (as long as you know exactly what size it is) AND a watch with a second hand.

1. Ask the customer to go to the hose bib closest to the water feed coming into their home or building. **Be sure to ask them to make sure there is no water running anywhere inside or outside while you do this test.**
2. Turn the hose bib on full blast and place the bucket under the bib.
3. Time exactly how long it takes to fill the bucket. Then, take the size of the bucket and divide it by the time it took to fill it up. Multiply by 60 and round your answer to the nearest whole number. This is the GPM rate coming into your system!