

## **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS!**

### **OUTDOOR WATER USE**

- 1. Limit Outdoor Water Use! Don't Water your Lawns during drought conditions! \*\***
  - If you are in a Region in Drought Warning\* (Severe Drought Conditions): Outdoor water use should be banned.
  - If you are in a Region in Drought Watch\* (Moderate to Severe Drought Conditions): Limit watering to hand-held only or drip irrigation outside the hours of 9am - 5pm to avoid evaporative losses.
  - If you are in a Region in Drought Advisory\* (Abnormally Dry Conditions): limit watering to 1 day per week at the most, outside the hours of 9am – 5pm to avoid evaporative losses.

\*To check your drought region and status go to: [www.mass.gov/dcr/drought](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/drought). See [DCR](#) and [DEP](#) web pages for more outdoor water saving tips.

- 2. Cover swimming pools when not in use to prevent evaporative losses.**
- 3. Sweep driveways, walks, patios, and other outdoor areas with a broom rather than hosing them off.** If water is necessary, use a water-conserving pressurized cleaning device<sup>[1]</sup>.
- 4. Where possible wash vehicles using a bucket and sponge,** employing a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinse only, or, if available, use a commercial car wash that recycles water (most do).

\*\*Certain water uses are not subject to mandatory restrictions, such as water use:

- For health or safety reasons;
- For the production of food and fiber;
- For the maintenance of livestock;
- To meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).

<sup>1</sup>A water-conserving pressurized cleaning device is one that either (a) discharges water at a minimum of 1,000 pounds per square inch (psi), or (b) is rated at using less than three gallons of water per minute.

### **INDOOR WATER USE**

- 1. Take Shorter Showers: 5 minutes or less**
- 2. Wash only Full loads of laundry and dishes**
- 3. Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or shaving. “Never Let the Water Run”**
- 4. Fix Leaks in the Building. Dripping faucets and leaking toilets can add up to hundreds of gallons of water lost per week.**
- 5. Avoid using the garbage disposal: create a kitchen compost instead**