

12 Williams Street • Augusta, ME 04330 • (207) 622-3701

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Greater Augusta
Utility District



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS FALL ABOUT...

...SAVING WATER TO
BE MORE EFFICIENT.



...GETTING YOUR PIPES
READY FOR WINTER.



...KEEPING YOUR
BASEMENT DRY.



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TIMELY WATER TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS AT GAUD.

With more than a century of experience, the Greater Augusta Utility District has learned a lot about how to manage water effectively. These tips can help you conserve water, save money on your GAUD bills, and prevent seasonal problems.

SAVE WATER, AND SAVE ON YOUR BILLS!

1. **Fix toilet leaks.** (This is the biggest water waster in the average household.) Or, if it's time, get a new toilet—it can use 75% less water than an old one.
2. **Take a shower instead of a bath,** using a low-flow shower head. An average full bath uses 60 gallons of water; a quick shower only a fraction of that—and a low-flow head can cut use by another 40%.
3. **Wait till you have a full load to do laundry or use your dishwasher.** Two half loads use twice as much water as one full load!
4. **Over-seed your lawn this fall** with ryegrass and fescues to thicken-up your grass. This will help reduce the amount of water your lawn needs next spring.



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GET YOUR PIPES READY FOR WINTER.

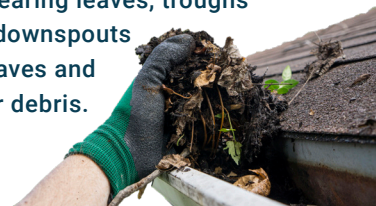
1. **Be sure your water meter and pipes are located in a warm, dry, and accessible area.** Check for broken windows or damaged skirting that might cause freezing.
2. **Protect outside pipes and faucets.** If you have a separate shutoff valve, turn it off and drain the pipes. If not, insulate outside faucets and hose bibs. You should also strongly consider re-routing any outdoor pipes.
3. **Caulk around pipes where they enter the house.** Seal cracks or holes in windows, walls or doors near the meter or pipes.
4. **Leave doors open to cabinets** with plumbing inside to make sure heat gets to the pipes.
5. **Insulate pipes** in an unheated garage, basement or crawl space with foam tubes or wrap.
6. **Locate your shutoff valves,** and try using them now to make sure they're working in case of an emergency.



KEEP YOUR BASEMENT DRY.



1. **Help prevent basement flooding** by clearing leaves, troughs and downspouts of leaves and other debris.
2. **Disconnecting downspouts** from the sewer system will also help prevent basement flooding and the release of polluted rainwater into local waterways.
3. **Consider installing a sump pump** if you have experienced basement flooding—and be sure to maintain your equipment once it's installed.



Be sure to seal window wells and fix leaks in basement walls.

Please do not hook sump pumps up to the sewer system. To do so is a violation of our sewer use ordinance.



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