

## Conservation:

Unlike many areas in the country, OCWA has access to adequate amounts of water that should meet both current and future needs. Otisco Lake can safely yield 25 million gallons of water per day. Lake Ontario is a direct connection to the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water. However, even with this abundance, water must be used wisely. It takes energy and resources to treat and deliver the water to the consumer. On hot summer days demand can increase by as much as 67% over an average day's production. In an effort to promote the wise use of water, to avoid waste and reduce energy demands, please note the following conservation tips:

- Fix any leaky faucets. A leak streaming at 1/16<sup>th</sup> at 60 psi can amount to more than 24,000 gallons in one month.
- Water lawns only when necessary. When walking on the grass, does it spring back up? If it does, the lawn does not need watering.
- When watering lawns or gardens, give them a thorough soaking during the most effective time to water. This is after sunset and before 10:00 a.m., this allows more time for water to soak into the ground. Watering during daylight hours results in water loss due to evaporation. Timely watering also helps minimize energy and production peaks during the driest parts of the year.
- When washing a car, use a bucket for washing and turn on the hose only for rinsing. Do not let water run continuously from a hose when not in use.
- By placing a layer of mulch around trees and shrubs the moisture level is maintained for plants. Mulch will also discourage weed growth.
- If you have a swimming pool, fill it during the night when demands on power and production systems are less.

***If you're interested in additional water savings tips call our Customer Service Department at 455-7061 ext. 3335.***

## Water Pressure:

**Water Pressure:** The New York State Department of Health standard indicates that normal water pressure in the distribution system should be approximately 60 to 80 psi and not less than 35 psi while maintaining a minimum pressure of 20 psi under all conditions of flow. OCWA attempts to operate and maintain the system within these parameters as much as possible, however, due to the significantly varying topography in Central New York it is not possible to do so in all areas of the system. In areas that the pressures exceed 80 psi, the New York State Uniform Building Code requires that homes have pressure-reducing valves (PRVs). Customers are responsible for installing the PRVs, and to periodically check/maintain this device; failure to do so may result in water damage and/or damaged water fixtures. When required for meter installation, the PRVs are to be installed either in a meter pit or within the house just before the meter. Customers should check the requirements within their municipality, but some require that a licensed plumber complete the installation.

## Other Important Phone Numbers:

<u>Nature of Call:</u>	<u>Contact:</u>	<u>Phone Number:</u>
Inquiries about This Report	Bob Rusyn, Water Quality Manager	673-4304 ext. 11
<b>After Hours/ Weekend Emergency</b>	<b>Answering Service</b>	<b>1-315-475-7601</b>
Water Quality Questions	Steve Berson, Water Systems Chemist	455-7061 ext. 3141
Billing Inquiries	Customer Service Dept.	455-7061 ext. 3335
Low Pressure / Discolored Water	Operations Dept.	455-7061 ext. 3120
Report a Leak	Distribution Maintenance Dept.	455-7061 ext. 3127
OCWA Board Meeting Information	Board of Directors Office	455-7061 ext. 3112
Onondaga County Dept. of Health		435-6600
Oswego County Dept. of Health		349-3557
Madison County Dept. of Health		366-2526
Oneida County Dept. of Health		798-5064
New York State Dept. of Health		1 (800) 458-1158
USEPA	Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1 (800) 426-4791