

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 part of the Great Lakes which 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 water to the consumer. On hot summer days demand can increase by as much as 67% over an average day's production. To promote the wise use of water and to avoid waste and reduce energy demands, please note the following conservation tips:

- Fix any leaky faucets. A leak streaming at 1/16th 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., which 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.
- Consider placing a layer of mulch around trees and shrubs to maintain the moisture level for plants. Mulch will also discourage weed growth.
- If you have a swimming pool, fill it during the night when the demand for power and production systems is lower.

If you're interested in additional water savings tips call our Customer Service Department at 315-455-7061 ext. 3335.

Water Pressure:

Water Pressure: NYSDOH regulators and Recommended Standards for Water Works indicate 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. We attempt to operate and maintain our system within these parameters as much as possible, however, due to significant variants in topography in Central New York, it is not possible to do so in all areas of the system. In areas where 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 them; 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 a licensed plumber to complete the installation.