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General WaterWise Tips:

1. **Water early in the morning** -- Experts say 4 to 7 a.m. is the best time to water lawns and other plants in order to reduce evaporation. Watering at midday results in as much as 30 percent water loss due to evaporation.
2. **OK to water young trees** -- While most trees don't need watering during prolonged dry periods, trees less than three years old may need watering once per week. Experts suggest using a drip hose one night per week on young trees that need water.
3. **Use your garden hose wisely** -- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off. Check your garden hose connections for leaks. If your hose connection leaks at the spigot or at a connection with another hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and tighten the connection.
4. **Check for leaks in your plumbing** -- Regularly check your toilet, faucets and pipes for leaks. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak somewhere. Reducing leaks can save water and money.
5. **Ensure appliances are full** -- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washers when they are full and use a water-saver cycle if you have one.
6. **Consider buying water saving appliances and devices** -- Look for the U.S. EPA's WaterSense and Energy Star labels when buying dishwashers and clothes washers. Use water-saving showerheads, toilets and faucet aerators. The WaterSense and Energy Star labels indicate appliances and plumbing fixtures that save water or energy.
7. **Reduce water use in the bathroom** -- Don't leave the water running as you brush your teeth. Take shorter showers.
8. **Save water in the kitchen** -- Don't let water run continuously as you wash dishes, install an aerator on your kitchen faucet, don't use running water to thaw food, when rinsing fruits and vegetables, collect the water and use it on plants.
9. **Collect rainwater** -- Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater. Then, use the collected water to water your lawn and landscaping.
10. **Please protect water quality as you conserve** -- Using phosphorus free fertilizer; minimizing runoff from your home with rain gardens and permeable surfaces like bricks; and picking up dog waste are among the things you can do to protect water quality in Central Indiana. For more water quality tips please visit our partners at: www.clearchoicescleanwater.org