

# WaterSource

Toronto Water information update for Councillors

Issue date: September 2011

September 23<sup>rd</sup> is the first official day of autumn. We hope you find this content helpful and consider sharing it on your own website, or through twitter feeds and newsletter.

## Top Tips from Toronto Water – Fall 2011

With summer over, thoughts start turning to the beautiful colours of autumn... and raking leaves. While you're at it, consider adding a few other items to your "to-do" list. The following tips will help you save water, money and the environment. They will also help you protect your home from possible basement flooding.

### Pools

- When emptying your pool, water from chlorinated pools must be dechlorinated before disposing of it into the storm sewer system. Water from salt water pools must be carefully released into a sanitary system connection located on your property.

### Lawns

- Over-seed your lawn with ryes and fescues to thicken-up your grass for next spring – this will help reduce the amount of water your lawn needs next year.

### Basement Flooding

- Help prevent basement flooding by clearing eavestroughs and downspouts of leaves and other debris. Be sure to seal window wells and fix leaks in basement walls. More advice on preventing basement flooding can be found at [toronto.ca/water/sewers/basement\\_flooding.htm](http://toronto.ca/water/sewers/basement_flooding.htm)
- Disconnecting downspouts from the sewer system will also help prevent basement flooding and the release of polluted rainwater into local waterways. More information on **mandatory** downspout disconnection, city-wide, can be found at [toronto.ca/water/downspout](http://toronto.ca/water/downspout)
- Consider installing a backwater valve and a basement sump pump if you have experienced basement flooding. Be sure to maintain your equipment once it's installed.

### Save water and money

- Toilet leaks can waste a lot of water and are a common cause of unexpectedly high water bills. Some leaks cannot be seen or heard. Check for a toilet leak with a few drops of food colouring in the toilet tank; if water in the bowl changes colour, you've got a leak that needs fixing.

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- Back to school means more laundry! Use a high-efficiency front loading clothes washing machine, and run only full loads.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full and don't pour grease and oil down the drain. Where possible, kitchen grease should go in the green bin with other material that can absorb it.

For more information on the City of Toronto's programs and services from Toronto Water, visit [toronto.ca/water](http://toronto.ca/water).