



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

February 3, 2012

## Super Bowl parties offer super opportunities for water savings

While football fans around the world are gearing up for the Super Bowl this weekend, those of us watching the game at home can score winning points for the environment and make good on New Year's resolutions. To improve our water environment and prevent excess water from filling the sewer system, consider this list of conservation tips:

- 1) While getting ready for guests, strive to reduce the amount of water that ends up going down the drain. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that showering is one of the primary ways water is used in the home and accounts for nearly 17 percent of residential indoor water use. This is equal to approximately 30 gallons per household per day. By retrofitting your bathroom with EPA-approved WaterSense-labeled fixtures, you can save even more.
- 2) Turn the water off while brushing your teeth and shaving. This simple action can save four gallons of water per minute and up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- 3) During breaks in the football action, examine your faucets for leaks and make a mental note to fix them. One faucet leaking at a rate of one drop per second can waste up to 2,082 gallons of water per year.
- 4) When all of the guests have left and it's time to wash the dishes, be sure to completely load the dishwasher. Full loads are more economical and use less water; 10 to 20 gallons of water per day can be saved by running the dishwasher when it is full.
- 5) Washing full - as opposed to partial - loads of laundry can save an average household more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. Using cold water instead of hot can save energy and money. Up to 90 percent of the energy used for washing clothes goes to heating the water.

"Special events are a great time to take stock of actions we can all engage in to reduce our impact on the environment," said Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) Executive Director David St. Pierre. "We may think it's too soon to be thinking about how we can prevent summer flooding, but we should get in the habit of using less water now to increase storage capacity for snow melt and rain later."

It's our water environment...Take it personally. Additional information about the MWRD can be found at [www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org) and more information about water conservation can be found at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

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