



Okanagan Residents Use More Water, But Have Less Than Rest of Canada

7/17/2013

Apparently residents in the Okanagan and Similkameen are water pigs, particularly when it comes to domestic outdoor use.

Water Conservation Ambassador Zoe Kirk says Okanagan residents use more than double the amount of water than the average Canadian and there is less water available in the region than anywhere else in Canada, which is a dangerous combination.

"The big message to understand is the water that falls on those hillsides in the form of snow and ice and what rivers drain into the Okanagan Water Basin is all we have," says Kirk. "We have to preserve and conserve the precious resource that we're given every year."

The average person in the Okanagan uses 675 litres of water each day, while the average Canadian uses just 329 litres per day and Kirk says a lot of the excess water that is used by Okanagan residents is on watering lawns and gardens.

"Unfortunately what I see all too often is people watering pavement and sidewalks instead of their lawns," explains Kirk.

That's why the Okanagan Basin Water Board has started a campaign to help residents use less water. Kirk says only watering your lawn or garden between dusk and dawn and leaving your grass a bit longer will reduce the amount water that evaporates, which also reduces your water consumption.

Visit the website www.makewaterwork.ca for more tips on how to efficiently use water on your lawn or garden and to fill out a pledge to conserve water. If you fill out the pledge, you are entered into a chance to win \$5,000 in WaterWise yard improvements and a makeover.

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