

Make a habit of these water conservation practices

Nthabiseng Dhlamini writes:

Fellow South Africans, as we begin this fresh New Year with vigour, let us keep it in our minds that South Africa is a water-scarce country and we need to save water as much as we can.

Although we have had some sporadic rainfall in most parts of the country, which has significantly boosted our water reservoirs, let us continue the practice of saving water in our households.

To contribute to conserving water, our valuable resource, the following practices can be applied: leaks around the house should be fixed - even a slow drip can waste 30 litres a day. This tip is highly essential, because it will also assist with the water bill. The more water drips from the tap, the more the water bill will go up.

And when in the garden, use a watering can so that water goes where it is needed. The other point is to water during the cool parts of the day, either in the early morning or from early evening. It is also important to make sure that you water the soil and not the leaves, so that water goes straight to the roots. Grey water can also be used to water gardens.

For people who love houseplants like I do, when you boil an egg, save the cooled water for your houseplants as

they will benefit from the nutrients released from the shell.

Let us make it a habit to turn off the tap between washing your face, brushing your teeth, or shaving. Taking a five-minute shower is better than taking a bath. However, if taking a bath is preferred, please do not fill up the bathtub.

While in the kitchen, do not fill the kettle to the brim. Pour just enough water for your needs. When washing dishes by hand, use minimal soap to limit rinsing the dishes.

Try by all means to do less laundry. Save the laundry

for one particular day in the week. It is possible to run full loads only instead of multiple

small loads. While at it, don't forget to adjust water levels so that water is not wasted.

The above-mentioned are some of the practices that we can apply to save and respect water. It is to be recalled that water cannot be replaced, thus we need to be always cautious and responsible when dealing with water. My plea to everyone in South Africa is to please remember to use water cautiously, and to not forget to teach the young ones at home as well.

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