

## How to Help Prevent Overflows During a Rain Storm

If you're like us here at the Watershed Council, you are constantly keeping an eye out on the weather forecasts so that you can prepare yourself for whatever Michigan has to throw at us!

During the next week, large amounts of rain and warmer melting temperatures can possibly lead to flooding. We wanted to share a **few quick and easy practices** that you can follow throughout the next week in order to help reduce the amount of water being used, and in turn help reduce any flooding that may occur during these large rain events.

- **Less is more!**
  - Take a shorter shower. Reducing your shower by just 3 minutes could save up to 12 gallons of water!
  - Load your dishwasher completely before running it or washing individual dishes by hand.
  - Decide what laundry is necessary to get done, and which loads can wait until after the rain.
  - Try to flush the toilet less or only as needed... we are all familiar with the excellent phrase "*if it's yellow...*"
  - Reducing water is not as hard as it sounds. Simple tasks such as turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth or washing your face can cut down on water usage more than you may think.
- **For the ambitious water conservers out there:**
  - Try taking a "*navy shower*", also referred to as a *military shower*. The idea is to get in the shower and rinse your body, then turn the shower off while soaping up. Finally, turn the shower on to rinse off. It may seem tedious, but a regular shower can use up to 60 gallons of water, while a "navy shower" can use as little as 3 gallons!
- **Be Aware:** One of the most important tips we can give is to be aware of your water usage. Taking the time to stop and think about how many times you use water throughout the day, and areas of your daily routine where **you** can **reduce** water usage is the best first step to take!