

Water Conservation

Things you can do to prevent water waste

In the bathroom

1. **Check your toilets for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. **Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.** Every time you flush a small item, you waste 5 to 7 gallons of water.
3. **Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank.** Put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill with water and put them in your toilet tank, making sure they are not interfering with the operating mechanisms. On the average, this can save 10 or more gallons of water daily.
4. **Take shorter showers.** Long, hot showers can waste 5 to 10 gallons of water every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.
5. **Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors.** Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water-saving heads or restrictors that are easy to install.
6. **Take baths.** A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest of showers.
7. **Turn off water after you wet your toothbrush.** There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
8. **Rinse your razor in the sink.** Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as well as running water.
9. **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds.

In the Kitchen and Laundry

1. **Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.**
2. **Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads.**
3. **If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.** If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water.
4. **Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.** Just rinse them in a stopped sink or a pan of clean water.
5. **Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.** Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.
6. **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and often can be repaired with only an inexpensive washer.

Outside Water Use

1. **Water your lawn only when it needs it.** A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, use the sprinkler.
2. **Deep soak your lawn.** When you do water, water it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tend to encourage shallow root systems.
3. **Water during the cool parts of the day.** Early morning generally is better than dusk since it helps prevent growth of fungus.
4. **Don't water the gutter.** Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.
5. **Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.** Many beautiful trees, shrubs and plants thrive with far less watering than other species
6. **Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weeds from growing. Check into seaweed as a partial alternative.
7. **Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.**
8. **Don't run the hose while washing your car.** Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just to rinse it off.
9. **Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.**