

Saving Water Indoors

Bathrooms

- Never use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing.
- If you use a bathtub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub. Bathe small children together.
- Limit the length and frequency of showers and baths.
- Install water-saving devices to decrease water consumption, such as toilet dams, faucet aerators, ultra-low flush toilets, and low flow showerheads.
- Check for dripping faucets, leaky pipes and running toilets. Then, make the necessary repairs.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. Do not flush. Check in 30 minutes, if the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- Install new ultra-low flush toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your old, high-volume toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanism.

Kitchen and Laundry

- Keep drinking water in a pitcher in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush instead of letting the water run. Save this water for your houseplants or landscape.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods. Instead, thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Add food wastes, like raw vegetables, to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Consider purchasing a high-efficiency washing machine that can save over 50 percent in water and energy use.

More Indoor Tips

- Never send water down the drain when there may be another use for it. If you run water to get it cold for drinking or hot for washing dishes, capture the water to use for watering your plants.
- Teach children to close faucets and to minimize water use.
- Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when water is not being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

Faucets and Showerheads

Dripping, trickling, or oozing faucets and showerheads can waste from 75 to several hundred gallons of water a week depending on the size of the drip. Worn out washers are the main cause of these leaks and a new one generally costs about 25¢.

Faucets typically use 2 to 7 gallons per minute. Installing a low-flow faucet aerator can reduce the flow by as much as 25% or up to a gallon and a half per minute. Be sure to remove your aerator periodically to clean the particles that may have collected in the screen.