

Water Wheel

Your Guide to Home Water Conservation – Water Saving Ideas

Why save water?

Water saved is money saved because you'll pay less water and sewer taxes. As an added bonus, when you use less hot water, your fuel bills go down as well. Even if you are on well water, saving water reduces electric costs of pump operation and also reduces amount of waste going to the septic tank.

- * Clean drinking water is a vanishing resource.
- * Water saved is money saved.
- * Saving water reduces waste loads.

Used water can often be recycled to water thirsty plants and shrubs. (Please contact local health officials for recommendations.)

How much water are we using?

The average American uses 60 gallons of water in the house each day. That doesn't include car washing, lawn watering and other outdoor uses. Flushing, bathing and laundering are the largest in-house uses.

Household faucet: 3-5 gallons per minute

Shower: 5-10 gallons per minute

Bathtub: 50 gallons if full

Toilet flushing: 5-7 gallons

Dishwasher: 15-25 gallons

Washing machine: 35 gallons

Lawn watering: 35 gallons per ½ acre

Dripping faucet: 1,000 or more gallons per year

Other Water Conservation Measures

Appliances: Check connecting faucets and hoses for leaks. Turn off connecting faucets when not in use to preserve equipment and avoid leaks.

Water pipes: Inspect regularly for pinhole leaks or leaks in connections. A pinhole leak can waste up to 170 gallons of water a day.

Please do not leave water running in a sink. Fill the sink then use the stopper or fill a container with water.

Water Saving Devices

A number of inexpensive devices are now available that will enable you to save even more water and energy. For more information, please contact your plumber or hardware store or your local government environmental office.

Please see the next page for more water saving ideas.

<u>Potential Water Waster</u>	<u>What You Can Do</u>	<u>Other Water Saving Techniques</u>	<u>Water Saved</u> L = large amt., M = medium amt., S = small, but significant amt.
Washing machine	Buy a water saver	When you buy a new machine, select the one that uses the least water per pound of wash. Get a suds saver attachment. Be sure to check energy consumption-buy machine that uses less water and energy.	L
Washing machine	Wash efficiently	Use load selector for large or small loads if there is one. Otherwise, wash only full loads. Use cold water. You won't save water but you will save energy and money. Try using less detergent.	L
Utility Sink	Hand wash efficiently	Soak well with smallest possible quantity of low sudsing detergent. Save rinse water for next wash. Just add soap. Presoak very dirty items overnight. Remodel with low consumption (0.5 gpm) faucet aerators.	L
Bathroom Sink	Shave and brush teeth the water saving way	Quickly rinse shaving razor. Use an electric razor; it uses energy but it saves water, soap, laundry and blades. For teeth, use a cup to rinse. Remodel with low consumption (0.5 gpm) faucet aerators.	S
Bathtub	Don't overfill tub	A full tub holds up to 50 gallons. You can bathe adequately with one quarter as much. Clean tub while you are in it. Mark height of water with tape during bath. Next time, take shower with tub stopped and compare water level.	L
Bathtub	Don't waste cold water	Stopper tub before turning on water. Initial cold water can be warmed by adding hot water later. Small kids	M

		can go in together. Consider recycling bathwater (if not too dirty) for heavy cleaning jobs.	
Faucets	Repair leaks	Check all faucets, including outside hose connections for leaks. Replace worn washers, O-rings packing and faulty fixtures. A periodic "leak check" (at least twice a year) should be conducted on all faucets from cellar to attic.	M
Pipes	Insulate hot water pipes	Water is wasted if you turn on hot water tap and wait for hot water to "come up." To reduce waste, wrap hot water pipes with insulating material. Make sure faucets are turned off when not in use.	M
Shower	Shorter, lighter showers	Turn off water while soaping up. See how light a spray you can wash with. It is not necessary to shower longer than five minutes. Remodel with low-consumption (2.5 gpm) showerheads.	L
Toilet	Flush less often	Flush only feces, urine, and toilet paper, no other waste. Flush only if necessary; solids remaining in bowl may be offensive, urine is not. Remodel with low consumption (1.5 gallon/flush or less) toilets.	L
Toilet	Repair leaks	Add a few drops of food coloring to water in tank. If coloring appears in toilet without flushing, there is a leak. Also, listen for sound of running water or pump. Remodel with low consumption (1.5 gallon/flush or less) toilets.	M

Toilet	Add bottles or dam to tank	Use plastic bottles filled with water and weighted with pebbles to displace water in tank. Do not use bricks or obstruct float. Install a dam. Remodel with low consumption (1.5 gallon/flush or less) toilets.	L
Lawn, Garden	Make every watering count	Water slowly, thoroughly and as infrequently as possible. Water at night to minimize evaporation. Aerate lawn, use drip irrigation systems and water timers.	L
Lawn, Garden	Practice water saving horticulture	Let grass grow higher in dry weather. Use drip irrigation systems and water timers. In very low water areas, try relandscaping with gravel and succulents. Use mulch.	L
Backyard Pool	Prevent evaporation and splashing	Cover when not in use to prevent evaporation (and accidents!) and to keep clean. Don't fill up high water splashes easily. Recycle wading water for plants, shrubs, and lawns.	L
Dishwasher	Use it efficiently	Scrape dishes off. Soak pots and pans overnight if necessary. Wash only full loads. Experiment to discover least possible detergent necessary to cut down on suds residue.	M
Drinking water	Keep bottle of drinking water in refrigerator	Don't run tap water for cold water without collecting for other nonconsumptive uses. Make only the amount of coffee or tea you are going to drink. Use ice cubes to cool water. Recycle leftover drinking water.	S
Drinking water	Promote water conservation at the table	Don't let waiter bring water unless you request it. Discourage automatic refilling of	S

		empty water glass. Use a durable cup at drinking fountains to avoid water and paper or plastic waste.	
Driveway or street	Wash car sensibly	Wash in sections, rinse with short spurts from hose. If you need to wash often, use a car wash that recycles water. (Many of them do.) Try to wash car near hedges, shrubs, for a “free drink.”	L
Garbage grinders	Use as little as possible	Collect food waste for starting a compost pile. Compost at the base of trees and shrubs can help retain and provide nutrients. If using the grinder or disposal, use recycled water.	S
Household cleaning	Use less water	Recycled water is great for heavy cleaning followed by clean rinse. Use least possible soap or cleaning agent. To cut down on rinse water, presoak.	S
Kitchen sink	Clean vegetables and fruit efficiently	Use vegetable brush for fruits and vegetables. If you have a hand sprayer, use it sparingly with short bursts of water. Remodel with low consumption (2 gpm) faucet aerators.	S
Kitchen sink	Defrost without water	Plan ahead to thaw frozen foods and ice trays in the air when possible. If necessary to force-thaw food, place in bowl of cold water.	S
Kitchen sink	Hand wash efficiently	Scrape dishes and rinse all at once. Soak pots and pans overnight – if very dirty. Cut down on clean up by serving single pan meals.	M

This information was taken from a brochure designed years ago by the LA Dept. of Natural Resources Energy Division and Louisiana Rural Water Association.