



There are many ways to conserve water indoors and outdoors. The following guidelines will help make your home more water efficient.

In the Kitchen/Laundry Room

- **Use the dishwasher instead of washing by hand.** Your dishwasher may use as little as 3.5 gallons per load — washing by hand uses about 27 gallons!
- **Skip the pre-rinse.** Modern dishwashers are designed to sense debris and can work even better when you do not pre-rinse. You'll save about 24 gallons of water per load.
- **Don't leave the water running if you do hand wash dishes.** Fill the sink or a pail to wash and rinse dishes.
- **Operate your clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads only.** Waiting until you have a full load of laundry or dishes saves on water and energy costs.
- **Consider an energy efficient dishwasher,** they use 10 fewer gallons per cycle than a traditional dishwasher.

In the Bathroom

- **Fix toilet leaks.** Toilet leaks are easy to identify and fix. To test for a toilet leak, place a few drops of food coloring or a toilet dye tablet in your tank. Wait a few minutes. If the coloring appears in the bowl, you likely have a leak.
- **Replace your old toilet,** the largest water user indoors. If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, you probably have an inefficient model that uses 3.5 gallons per flush or more. Consider replacing it with a new and improved high-efficiency toilet. These new models use 1.28 gallons per flush or less.
- **Shower instead of using the bath tub and take shorter showers.** A full bath tub can use 25-70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses 10 to 15 gallons. If you take a bath, stopper the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.
- **Replace older showerheads with new, efficient, low-flow models** that use 1.7 gallons per minute or less. Older models can use up to 7 gallons of water per minute and can waste thousands of gallons per month.

At the Faucet

- **Turn off the tap when you don't need the water.** A five-minute shave with running water uses 10 gallons of water. For a daily shaver, that's 3,650 gallons a year! Turning off the tap while brushing teeth alone saves 3,000 gallons of water per year!
- **Equip faucets with a WaterSense aerator.** Just one low-flow aerator can save 700 gallons of water each year.
- **Find leaks** — At just one drip per second, your faucet is wasting 3,000 gallons per year!

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