

# Green Your Home: Improving Water Conservation



It's easy to waste water and even easier to take clean water for granted. Water pours out of our faucets as though it were endlessly available. But the truth is that the supply of good quality fresh water is limited.

Fortunately, it's just as easy to save water as it is to waste it. Use the following questions and tips to help you identify places where you can make changes to save water, and money, too!



## Inside the House

- Has your family discussed water conservation and implemented any water conservation plans?  Yes  No
- Have all leaking faucets, toilets, and showerheads been repaired?  Yes  No
- Is the dishwasher run only when full so you conserve water?  Yes  No
- Is the washing machine run only when full so you conserve water?  Yes  No
- Are silverware and dishes presoaked in a container instead of rinsed with running water?  Yes  No
- Have low-flow faucets been installed?  Yes  No
- Have toilets been installed that use 1.6 gallons/flush or less?  Yes  No
- Do you turn off the water while brushing teeth and soaping hands?  Yes  No
- Do you turn off the faucet when scrubbing dishes and pots?  Yes  No

## Outside the House

- Are driveways and sidewalks swept rather than cleaned with water?  Yes  No
- Has native vegetation been planted that is adapted to local rainfall amounts and climate?  Yes  No
- Has mulch been placed around plants and trees to retain moisture?  Yes  No
- If the lawn and plants need to be watered, is this done during the cooler parts of the day to minimize evaporation loss?  Yes  No
- Are sprinklers and hoses directed at grassy areas and not the pavement when watering?  Yes  No
- Is rainwater collected for irrigating and watering plants?  Yes  No

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### Household Water Conservation Tips

Use this chart to identify ways that you can conserve water in your home.

Activity	Typical Method	Water Conservation Method
<b>Toilet Flushing</b> About 40% of domestic water use is from flushing the toilet.	Older toilets use about 5.5 gallons per flush.	Newer toilets use about 1.6 gallons per flush.
<b>Bathing</b> About 30% of domestic water use is from bathing.	Regular showerheads have a flow rate of about 5–7 gallons per minute.	Low-flow showerheads have a flow rate of about 2.5 gallons per minute.
<b>Laundry</b> About 20% of domestic water use is from washing machines.	One load in a top-loading washer uses about 40 gallons.	Be sure to adjust the level of the water to the amount of clothes in the machine. Full loads are the most efficient.  Newer front-loading washers can use as little as 12-15 gallons per load.
<b>Washing Dishes</b>  Dishwasher 1 Load = 10–25 gallons  By hand, with water running 1 Load = 30 gallons  In sink, with stopper 1 Load = 10 gallons	Older dishwashers are not as energy and water efficient as newer models. Older models use about 13–25 gallons of water per load.	Water-efficient dishwashers use about 10 gallons of water per load.
<b>Brushing Teeth</b>	With water running for 2 minutes = 6 gallons	With water off except to rinse = 0.25–0.5 gallons



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