

Saving Water: Room by Room

Kitchen and Laundry

- Simple practices that save a lot of water:
- Keep drinking water 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.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

Bathroom

- Where over half of all water use inside a house takes place:
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full. Bathe small children together.
- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

Equipment

- High-efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances save about 30 percent on water use and yield substantial savings on water, sewer, and energy bills:
- Consider purchasing high-efficiency toilets or a commercial dam.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50 percent in laundry water and energy use.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

Landscape Irrigation

- Depending on climate, up to 75 percent of a home's total water use during the growing season is for outdoor purposes (During drought conditions outdoor watering restrictions may be imposed, so some of the following tips will not apply.):
- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height – longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.

Other Outdoor Uses:

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle for the hose.
- Avoid purchasing water toys requiring a constant stream of water.
- Consider purchasing a new water-saving swimming pool filter.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation.
- Do not install or use ornamental water features unless they recycle the water. Use signs to show the public that water is recycled.

