

## Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Verify that your home is leak free - Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

Check all faucets, pipes, and toilets periodically for leaks - A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet will add up to 15 gallons of water a day, or 105 gallons a week, which adds up to 5,475 gallons of wasted water a year. A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer. Check your flapper periodically to make sure it's a tight fit. Add food coloring to your toilet tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)

Install water saving shower heads - Low-flow shower heads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less and are relatively inexpensive. Older shower heads use 5 to 7 gallons per minute.

Take shorter showers or take a bath - Simply taking shorter showers will save gallons of water. For long exposures to the water, a partially filled bath instead of a shower will use less water.

Install a 1.6 gallon low-flow toilet - Ultra-low flow toilets use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Using these could cut indoor water use by as much as 20%. Older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket - Using a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash will save gallons of water that are otherwise wasted.

Install high efficiency, low-flow faucet aerators - Older faucets use between 3 and 7 gallons per minute. Low-flow faucet aerators use no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute. The aerators can be attached to most existing faucets.

Turn off the water while shaving, brushing teeth, etc. - Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth, wash your face or hands, or shave. This can save 3 to 7 gallons per minute.

Keep drinking water in your refrigerator - Don't let the faucet run until the water cools down. Instead, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator, or fill quickly and use ice cubes. Running faucets waste 3 to 7 gallons of water per minute.

Don't waste rinse water - Before rinsing, put the sink stopper in place instead of running the water, and use water in sink to rinse. If you need to use the garbage disposal, release the used sink water as the disposal is turned on.

Defrost food in the refrigerator - When defrosting food, plan ahead to thaw it in the refrigerator or microwave oven instead of under running water.

Insulate your water pipes - You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Fill your dishwasher - Your dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it is full or just partially full of dishes, so be sure to fill it. Use your dishwasher water saver cycle.

Select Proper Water Level for Laundry - Unlike your dishwasher, you can control the amount of water used by your clothes washers. Select the proper water level for each load of laundry.

Reuse fish tank water - Use fish tank water on your household plants. Besides saving water, it's a good fertilizer.