



## Water Conservation

**Saving water means saving money and improving the environment.**

It's more important than ever to save water. With climate change concerns, pervasive droughts and high energy prices, nearly everyone is looking for ways to conserve resources and cut costs. It takes a considerable amount of energy to deliver and treat the water you use every day. Heating water for bathing, shaving, cooking and cleaning also requires a lot of energy. Homes with electric water heaters, for example, spend one-quarter of their electric bill just to heat water.

# GO LOW FLOW!



Estimate the savings you can achieve by upgrading to water efficient appliances. You can use water flow bags to compare the gallons-per-minute (gpm) rates of your current faucets and showerheads to more efficient ones to see how much you can save.

### WATER SAVING RESOURCES

[www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve)

[eartheasy.com/live\\_water\\_saving.htm](http://eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm)

[www.epa.gov/WaterSense/kids/whysave.html](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/kids/whysave.html)

[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) (How to fix your leaks)

[www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Residential\\_Hot\\_Water\\_Distribution\\_System\\_Introduction.aspx](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Residential_Hot_Water_Distribution_System_Introduction.aspx)

[www.americanwater.com/49ways.php](http://www.americanwater.com/49ways.php)

*See reverse side for tips to start saving water today!*



[www.systemvision.org](http://www.systemvision.org)



**A faucet running for FIVE MINUTES uses about as much energy as a 60-watt light bulb running for 14 HOURS.**



## Here are a few tips to help you start saving water today!

### WATER & ENERGY

#### Water Heater

- Putting pipe insulation on the first few feet of hot and cold pipes going into and out of the water heater will save between \$5 and \$10 in energy costs each year.
- When it is time to replace your water heater, compare the yellow EnergyGuide sticker on each product to evaluate the operating costs of each unit. Ask for water heaters that have an Energy Factor of .93 for electric units or .61 for gas units.

### KITCHEN

#### Kitchen Faucet



- Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave rather than under running water.
- Wash fruits and vegetables with a vegetable brush in a dish pan rather than under a running tap. Use the leftover water to water indoor plants or your garden.
- Turn off the water when washing dishes. If you have two sinks, try filling one with wash water and the other with rinse water. Otherwise, fill a separate basin with rinse water.

#### Dishwasher

- Pre-rinsing dishes may be unnecessary. Most modern dishwashers only need you to remove large bits of food, making it easier on you and your wallet.
- Only run the dishwasher when it is fully loaded.
- When purchasing a new dishwasher, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Use a dishwasher instead of hand washing. An ENERGY STAR dishwasher can save you up to \$40 in utility bills per year and more than 230 hours of personal time! ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))

### LAUNDRY

#### Washing Machine

- Only wash full loads of laundry. Use the cold water setting for all general laundry. Only use the hot water setting for bedding, soiled or stained clothes, and diapers.
- If you wash one load of laundry each day, an ENERGY STAR® labeled washing machine will save between \$65 and \$175 in energy costs and up to \$100 in water each year.



### BATHROOM

#### Toilet

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

#### Bathroom Sink Faucet

- Turn off water while you brush your teeth or shave.
- Replace 2.2 gallon per minute (gpm) faucet nozzles (aerators) with 1.5 gpm WaterSense® labeled aerators. Aerators cost less than \$5 and can save up to \$10 each year.



#### Bathing

- Reduce shower flow. Installing water-efficient showerheads and shortening your shower by a minute or two can save more than 3,600 gallons per person per year and \$10 to \$40 per year in energy costs. Choose WaterSense showerheads that use 2.0 gpm or less.
- Take showers instead of baths. A bathtub holds up to 50 gallons of water. A typical shower uses less than 20 gallons.

#### HOW TO INSTALL A SHOWERHEAD:

- 1 Unscrew the old showerhead — you may need a wrench to loosen it.
- 2 Wrap a small amount of silicone tape around the spout's screw thread.
- 3 Screw on the new showerhead tightly. Your new showerhead is ready to go!

#### Leaks

- A faucet that drips once every other second wastes three gallons of water a day.
- Fixing a hot water leak may cost \$5 to \$150, but it can save you \$50 to \$200 per year in energy and water costs! Learn to identify and fix leaks in your home by checking out the videos at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).