

## Ways to Save Water – Every Day

### In Your Kitchen

- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons every time.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.



### In Your Bathroom

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
- Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- Turn off the water while washing your hair and save up to 150 gallons a month.
- When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
- Take 5-minute showers instead of baths. A full bathtub requires up to 70 gallons of water.
- Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.
- One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.

### In Your Home

- Teach children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it most.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you.
- Reward kids for the water-saving tips they follow.
- Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

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#### *Outside Your Home*

Use porous material for walkways and patios to prevent wasteful runoff and keep water in your yard.

- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under watering others.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
- Plant in the spring and fall, when the watering requirements are lower.
- When sprucing up your front or backyard, consider xeriscaping. This landscape method uses low-water-use plants to limit your water use.
- Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Use a layer of organic mulch on the surface of your planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.
- Use 2 to 4 inches of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low-water-use plant and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- For automatic water savings, direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems to water-loving plants in your landscape.
- Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass.
- Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output. 3/4 to 1 inch of water is enough to apply each time you irrigate.

#### *In Your Pool*

- Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation.
- Make sure your swimming pools, fountains and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
- If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.
- Don't overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing.
- Instead of building a private pool, join a community pool.

*Excerpts from [wateruseitwisely.com/ways-to- conserve](http://wateruseitwisely.com/ways-to- conserve)*