

TOP 10 WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER INDOORS

1. Shut off water when not in use, such as when you brush your teeth or shave or while on vacation turn off pumps, water softeners, and other water-using equipment.
2. **Install:**
 - A) low flow faucet aerators or laminar flow restrictors that limit flow to <2.5gpm on all faucets in the house;
 - B) low flow showerhead devices that limit flow to <2.5gpm, take shorter showers and or fill bathtubs no more than half full;
 - C) Ultra-low flow toilets (ULF) that use a maximum of 1.3gal/flush. And replace or repair toilet flush handles that stick in the flush position.
3. Never put water down the drain when you can use it for something else, such as watering plants.
4. Insulate water pipes and hot water heaters. This retains heat so that you don't have to run the water as long for it to get hot. It also saves energy costs.
5. If washing dishes by hand, rinse them in a basin rather than under running water.
6. Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap for cold water.
7. Wash full loads of laundry only. If unable to wash a full load, set your washer to the appropriate water level setting.
8. Repair leaky faucets. One leaky faucet can waste up to 4,000 gallons of water per month.
9. Check your water meter over a period of time when no one is using water. If the meter moves, you have a leak.
10. Adjust the toilet tank float level so that water fills no higher than 0.5"-1.0" below the top of the overflow pipe. At higher levels water can flow down the pipe and leak through to the bowl. The refill valve then tops off the tank, causing a continuous cycle of drain and fill.

TOP 10 WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER OUTDOORS

1. Set mower blades on high setting (2"-3") to provide natural ground shade and promote water retention by the soil.
2. Water lawn and garden between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. to prevent evaporative water loss.
3. Use a rain gauge and water no more than 1 inch per week. Place several empty cans around the yard to determine how long it will take to apply 1 inch of water, then only run hoses or sprinklers for that time.
4. Collect rainwater for watering plants using a barrel covered with a screen.
5. Use rain sensors on automatic sprinkler systems.
6. Operate in-ground sprinkler systems manually. Only use when less than an inch of rainfall per week has fallen. Set the sprinkler heads to water only the grass and not paved areas.
7. Use drip irrigation to water flower beds and non-lawn landscaped areas. Or hand water these areas.
8. Plant native species suited to your area. Ask your local nursery for plant and grass species that require less water.
9. When washing your car, turn off the hose between rinses, or wash with a bucket and sponge and only use the hose for rinsing.
10. Sweep down decks and driveways instead of hosing them down.