



USE WATER WISELY

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

KITCHEN

- There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Now, Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.
- 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.
- Reuse leftover water from cooked or steamed foods to start a nutritious soup. It's one more way to get eight glasses of water a day.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.

LAUNDRY ROOM

- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
- When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some can save up to 20 gallons of water per load.

BATHROOM

- If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a WaterSense® labeled model.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Take showers instead of baths. A full bathtub requires up to 70 gallons of water.
- Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year. 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- Install water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.
- Look for WaterSense® labeled toilets, sink faucets, urinals and showerheads.
- One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.

LANDSCAPING

- Plant in the spring and fall, when the watering requirements are lower.
- Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Start a compost pile. Using compost in your garden or flower beds adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Timing is everything when it comes to irrigation. Learn how to set your controller properly.
- Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- Signs of overwatering: Leaves turn lighter shades of green or yellow, young shoots wilt, and sometimes algae or fungi grow.
- For hanging baskets, planters and pots, put ice cubes on top of the soil to give your plants a cool drink of water without overflow.

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.
- Don't overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing.

GENERAL OUTDOOR

- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. Or, wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your grass at the same time.
- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways, and save water every time.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. Were a pipe to burst, this could save gallons of water and prevent damage.