



# Water Conservation Tips to Help You Slow the Flow

## Outdoor Water Use

- Adjust sprinklers to minimize spray onto sidewalks.
- When brown spots occur in your lawn, check first for coverage problems before increasing run times. You may need to adjust or replace sprinkler heads.
- Regularly inspect irrigation equipment in operation and repair drip line leaks and broken sprinkler heads.
- Use a higher setting to mow lawns. Longer lawns need less water.
- Adjust your watering schedule according to the season, and only water your plants when they need it. Just enough, not too much.
- Install a rain shutoff device, soil moisture sensor, or humidity sensor to help stop irrigation when it's not needed.
- On steep slopes use multiple short run times to prevent runoff.
- Water in the early morning when it's cool and winds are lowest to reduce evaporation and overspray.
- Aerate and de-thatch your lawn to increase air and water transfer to the root zone.
- Place mulch around plantings to conserve soil moisture.
- Clean your sidewalks & driveway with a broom instead of a hose.
- Consider replacing turf with native and low water-use plants on drip irrigation.
- Use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle when washing your car.

## Indoor Water Use

- Stop those leaks! Leaky toilets or faucets can really dampen your conservation efforts.
- Replace your older water guzzling toilet with a new High Efficiency model. Look for the Water Sense logo!
- Limit showers to 5 minutes or less.
- Replace your older top-loading clothes washer with a front-loading High Efficiency model.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Dispose of tissues in the garbage, not the toilet.
- Make sure your faucets and showerheads all have aerators or flow restrictors.
- Put food scraps in the garbage, rather than the sink.
- Only run the clothes washer and dishwasher when you have a full load. You'll save water and power!

## Useful Resources

- H2OUSE: A virtual tour of your home, filled with water saving tips. [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)
- WaterSense: Information about water-saving appliances. [www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)

## How Much Water Are You Using?

Use	Inefficient	Efficient
Shower	Regular showerheads use 3 gallons-per-minute, for a 15 minute shower... <b>45 gallons</b>	Low Flow showerheads use 1.5 gallons-per-minute, for around a 5 minute shower... <b>8 gallons</b>
Bath Tub	Full tub... <b>36 gallons</b>	Tub half-way filled... <b>15 gallons</b>
Brushing Teeth	Tap running... <b>2-5 gallons</b>	Wet brush, rinse... <b>1/4 gallon</b>
Washing Hands	Tap running... <b>2-3 gallons</b>	Tap off while washing... <b>1/2 gallon</b>
Shaving	Tap running... <b>10-15 gallons</b>	Sink half-way filled... <b>1 gallon</b>
Toilet Flushing	Pre-1992 toilets... <b>3.5+ gallons per flush</b>	High Efficiency & Dual-Flush Toilets... <b>1.28 gallons per flush</b>
Washing Dishes	Tap running... <b>25+ gallons</b>	Tap off while washing, sink half-way filled, rinse bowl... <b>5 gallons</b>
Automatic Dishwasher	Full cycle... <b>25 gallons</b>	Energy star on short cycle... <b>10 gallons</b>
Laundry Machine	Standard top loader... <b>40 gallons</b>	High Efficiency front loader... <b>20 gallons</b>
Car Washing	Running water... <b>40+ gallons</b>	Shut-off nozzle for hose and bucket for soapy water... <b>15 gallons</b>