

EVERY DROP COUNTS!

Watching Water Wasters

- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash.
- Replace your showerhead with an ultra low-flow version, saving up to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- In the shower, instead of increasing the hot or cold water flow to adjust the water temperature, try decreasing the flow to achieve a comfortable water temperature.
- Don't let the water run while shaving, washing your face, or brushing your teeth.
- Minimize the use of kitchen sink disposals; they require a lot of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run to get a cool glass of water.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost them overnight in the refrigerator.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow stream of water from the faucet. Use the dirty water to run your sink disposal if necessary.
- Fully load automatic dishwashers; they use the same amount of water no matter how much is in them.
- Unlike your dishwasher, the amount of water your washing machine uses is adjustable; adjust according to the load size.
- Buy water saving washing machines. Horizontal loading machines use less water than top-loading machines.
- Install a hot water recirculation device. By recirculating water that would otherwise go down the drain, you can save 2-3 gallons of water per shower or 16,500 gallons a year per household.
- Never install a water-to-air heat pump or air-conditioning system. Air-to-air models are just as efficient and do not waste water.
- Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary. Turn softeners off while on vacation.



- Verify that your home is leak free. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a hidden leak.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year.
- Retrofit all wasteful household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water.
- Don't over-water your lawn. Generally, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. Buy a rain gauge to see how much water your yard gets.
- Water lawns during early morning hours to reduce losses from evaporation and position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs, not on paved areas.
- Teach your family how to shut off automatic systems so they can turn them off when storms are coming.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than closely-clipped lawns.
- Avoid overfertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water and is a source of water pollution.
- Mulch to retain soil moisture and control weeds.
- Plant native and/or drought-tolerant plants. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- Minimize the grass areas in your yard because less grass means less water.
- Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk; use a broom instead saving hundreds of gallons of water.
- Check all hoses, connectors and spigots regularly. Replace or add washers if you find leaks.
- If you have a pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter. A single backflushing with a traditional filter uses from 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park it on the grass, use a bucket with soapy water, turn off the water while soaping, and use a hose with a pressure nozzle to decrease rinsing time.

