

Take Control of Your Water and Wastewater Bill

In the Bathroom

Two-thirds of water used in the home flows through the bathroom.

Don't leave the water running

- Shaving (uses 20 gallons of water)
- Teeth Brushing (uses 10 gallons of water)
- Hand Washing (uses 2 gallons of water)

Showers vs. Bath

- Standard shower heads dispense 5-15 gallons of water per minute.
- A full bathtub holds approximately 36 gallons of water.
- Shower heads with flow restrictors dispense 3-5 gallons of water per minute.

Don't Flush Your Money Down the Toilet

The Facts

- Standard toilets use 4-6 gallons of water to flush
- The average person flushes 19 gallons of water per day.
- 25% of all water used in the home is flushed down the toilet.

Use Less Water

- Place a plastic container filled with water in the toilet tank.
- Be careful not to block the float arm.
- Never use a brick or rock that could crumble and damage your toilet.

About Leaks

- Detect and fix leaky toilets (you can't always hear a leak)
- Place several drops of food coloring in the tank, wait 30 minutes and you will see any hidden and silent leaks.
- Flush immediately after completing your test to avoid discoloration of your stool.
- Leaky toilets can use 100's of gallons of water per day.

Other

- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Remember every facial tissue, bandage wrapper, or cigarette takes 4 to 6 gallons to flush.

In the Kitchen

Dish Washing

- If you hand wash your dishes, fill both basins. Use one to wash and one to rinse.
- Water-efficient dishwashers use between 8-15 gallons per load.
- A dishwasher using 12 gallons of water to wash a full load is probably using less water than an individual who washes the same by hand.
- Scrape dishes instead of rinsing them. Garbage disposals gulp down gallons of water.

Drip, Drip, Drip

- A leaky tap, dripping once per second, wastes 6-7 gallons of water each day.
- A slow, steady drip can account for as much as 11 gallons of water each day.
- A small stream, 67 gallons each day.

Running Water

- Don't let water run down the drain to get that cold drink. Store drinking water in the refrigerator.
- Catch running water (when waiting for hot water) to use to water plants or rinse fruits and vegetables later.
- Insulate your hot water pipes.

In the Laundry

- Front loading washers use 22-25 gallons of water per load vs. the 35-60 gallons consumed by a top loader.
- Always wash full loads and adjust your washer to the proper load size.

In the Yard and Garden

Watering

- Avoid mist spray sprinkler heads. They evaporate water.
- Consider using soaker type hoses or low, broad drop sprinklers.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil and control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- Don't over water. Rule of thumb: lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. A hearty rainfall can eliminate the need for watering for as long as 2 weeks.
- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are minimized.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. This higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades their root system, and holds soil moisture.

Patio and Sidewalk

- Sweep rather than hosing them down.

Garden Hose

- Garden hoses can pour out 600 gallons or more in a few hours.
- Always turn off outdoor spigots. Do not rely on the shut off nozzle on your hose.