



Water Conservation

Water waste can add up quickly. On average, a family of four uses 90,000 gallons of water each year; each person uses about 60 gallons of water each day. Consumers are discovering that more efficient water use can reduce the impact on the water supply and their wallets. Here are some ways to make your home and your habits more water efficient.

Fix Leaks

A leaky faucet is easy to see. But hidden leaks in the toilet, under the sink, or behind a washing machine can waste large amounts of water and can also damage floors or ceilings. Take a reading of your water meter. Check it again in an hour. If the reading has changed, you've got at least one leak. Investigate!

Install a Low-Flush Toilet

Toilets account for over one-third of the water used in most homes. Installing a new ultra low flush toilet will save thousands of gallons each year and can reduce your bathroom water use by over 50%.

Install a Low-Flow Showerhead and Faucet Aerator

Some showerheads use over 5 gallons per minute. A low-flow showerhead uses 2.5 gallons or less per minute and can save you over 20 gallons per 10-minute shower. In one year, that's over 7,000 gallons. Faucets can use 2 to 7 gallons of water per minute - a low flow-aerator can reduce the flow by about 25%.

Outdoor Water Savings Tips

Summer is an especially important time to save water. Water consumption can increase up to 50% in the summer months due to outdoor water use.



The Inch Rule

Most lawns, shrubs, vegetables, and flowers need just one inch of water per week. If there has been an inch of rainfall during the week, you don't have to water at all.

Overwatering can actually weaken your lawn by encouraging shallow roots that are less tolerant of dry periods and more likely to be damaged by insects.



The Ground Rules for Saving Water Outdoors

- * Water your lawn (and other landscaping) in the early morning or evening to avoid evaporation.
- * Be sure sprinklers water only on your lawn, not the pavement.
- * Never water on a windy, rainy, or hot day.
- * Never use the hose to clean debris from your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom.
- * Apply mulch around flowers to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth, and control weeds.

