

## 50 WAYS TO SAVE WATER

### Saving Water Indoors

1. Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as cleaning or watering plants.
2. Be sure that your home is leak-free, because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not show exactly the same readings, there is a leak.
3. 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.
4. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts.
5. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in a trash container rather than in the toilet.
6. Install a toilet dam or displacement device such as a bag or bottle to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flushing. Be sure installation does not interfere with operating parts. When purchasing new or replacement toilets, consider low-volume units which use less than half the water of older models.
7. Take shorter showers. Replace your shower head with an ultra low-flow version.
8. Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the tub only 1/3 full. Put the plug or stopper in the tub before turning on water.
9. Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot; then wash or shave after filling the basin.
10. Fit all wasteful household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
11. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded, or properly set the water level for the size of load you are using.
12. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
13. Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
14. Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.

15. Kitchen sink garbage disposals require a lot of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste instead of using a garbage disposal. Garbage disposal waste also can add 50 percent to the volume of solids in a septic tank.
16. Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will reduce heating costs for your household.
17. Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
18. Never install a water-to-air heat pump or air-conditioning system. Newer air-to-air models are just as efficient and do not waste water.
19. Install water-softening systems only when necessary.
20. If you have a well at your home, check your well pump. Listen to see if the pump turns on and off while the water is not in use. If it does, you have a leak.
21. When adjusting water temperatures, instead of turning water flow up, try turning it down.
22. If the toilet flush handle frequently sticks in the flush position, which allows water to run constantly, replace or adjust it.

### **Saving Water Outdoors**

23. Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter.
24. Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation.
25. Don't water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs...not the paved areas.
26. Install sprinklers that are the most water-efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of water-efficient methods of irrigation.
27. Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they are operating properly.
28. Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.

29. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
30. Mulch to retain moisture in the soil.
31. Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees (xeriscaping). Once established, they do not need to be watered as frequently and they usually will survive a dry period without any watering. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
32. Do not hose your driveway or sidewalk. Using a hose to clean a driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
33. Outfit your hose with a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray so water flows only as needed.
34. Use hose washers between faucets and water hoses to eliminate leaks.
35. Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended.
36. Check all hoses, connectors and spigots regularly.
37. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass to do so.
38. Avoid the installation of ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless the water is recycled.
39. If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.

### **General Water Saving Tips**

40. Create an awareness of the need for water conservation among children. Avoid the purchase of recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
41. Be aware of and follow all water-conservation and water-shortage rules and restrictions, which may be in effect in your area.
42. Encourage your employer to promote water conservation at the workplace.
43. Patronize businesses which practice and promote water conservation.
44. If you rent, report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, etc.) to the property owner or local authorities. Report abandoned free-flowing wells to the water management district.

45. Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
46. Support projects that will lead to an increased use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
47. Support efforts and programs to create a concern for water conservation among tourists and visitors to our state.
48. Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community. Promote water conservation in community newsletters, on bulletin boards and by example.
49. Conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because someone else is paying the bill, such as when you are staying at a hotel.
50. Try to do one thing each day that will result in a savings of water. Don't worry if it is minimal. Every drop counts. Every person can make a difference.