

Water Conservation Tips

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until the water gets cold.

Replace 5-gallon per flush toilets with standard 1.9 gallons per flush models. This can save an average of 18,600 gallons of water per year and about \$90.

Fixing that leaky toilet can save as much as 500 gallons a day or as much as \$1,000 per year. Check toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color begins to appear in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second can add up to 2,700 gallons per year.

Don't let the water run while brushing teeth or shaving. On average, you will save more than 5 gallons of water.

Take shorter showers. A quick shower rather than a bath can save an average of 20 gallons of water. EPA recommends taking 3 to 5 minute showers.

Use both sides of the sink when washing dishes: one side to wash and the other side to rinse. Don't wash dishes with the water running.

Garbage disposals use approximately 11.5 gallons of water per day. Try composting organic wastes instead.

Use the dishwasher and washer only when you have full loads.

When cleaning a fish tank, use the drained water on plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, a healthy treat for plants.

Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or cleaning around your home.

Use mulch around trees to slow evaporation.

Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps.

Water lawns and plants early in the morning or during when there's less evaporation.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways