

Ways to Conserve Water



INSIDE

- **TOILETS**

Put displacement devices like weighted plastic bottles in the toilet tank.

Upgrade to ultra-low volume 1.6-gallon toilets, a composting toilet, or install an adjustable toilet flapper.

- **SHOWERS**

Take a “one song shower” – try to take shorter showers by timing yourself based on the length of a song.

Install water-saving showerheads, shower timers, and low-flow faucet aerators.

- **SINKS & FAUCETS**

Fit household faucets with aerators.

Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush or when shaving.

Don't leave the water running when hand washing dishes.

- **WASHERS**

Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.

Use a dishwasher instead of handwashing dishes – the EPA estimates they use half as much water.

Look for HE or EnergyStar rated appliances.



OUTSIDE

- Water your lawn and garden during **cooler parts of the day**.
- **Position your lawn sprinkler** so the water lands on the lawn and not on paved areas.
- Don't leave your **sprinkler** running all day.
- Use a garden hose with a **shut off nozzle**.
- Cover your **swimming pool** to cut loss of water by evaporation.
- Use a **broom**, not a hose to clean your sidewalks and driveway.
- **Insulate your pipes** and electric water heater to reduce the time needed for water to heat up
- **Check for leaks** in and around your house and repair them as soon as possible.
- **Reuse water when possible.**
 - You can use **grey water** (the water draining from your houses sinks baths tubs and laundry machines) to water your plants.
 - You can also use rain barrels or a catchment system to **collect rain water** from your roof to water your plants.

Rain barrels can be purchased at DPW.
For more information please call
978-744-3302 or 978-619-5673.

These simple changes can **save you money** by reducing water use by thousands of gallons.



[Click Here to Watch a Video About Water Conservation](#)

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Why Should I Care About Conserving Water?

Protecting the Environment

Water is a limited resource that humans are depleting. Earth is a self-contained ecosystem, meaning Earth always has, and will always have, the same amount of water, but the population growth puts a strain on water supplies and clean water is reduced by the pollution and contamination we create.

Saving Energy

Wasting water wastes electricity. The biggest use of electricity in most cities is supplying water and cleaning it up after it's been used. Water heaters account for about 25% of home energy use. To cut your water heating bills: use less hot water, turn down the thermostat on your water heater, insulate your water heater, or buy a new, more efficient water heater.

Saving Money

The table below shows an estimation of how much money you could save on your water bill by trying different water conservation methods.

Method	Estimated Gallons Saved Annually	Potential Money Saved Annually
Efficient Lawn Watering	12,000	\$450 – \$1,800
Fixing Leaks	7,300	\$275 – \$1,100
Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving	1,095	\$40 - \$165
Running only full washing machines and dishwashers	6,000	\$225 - \$900
One or two minutes less in the shower	8,400	\$315 – \$1,260
Purchasing a dual flush toilet or installing a dual flush converter	15,000	\$560 – \$2,250
Energy Star Certified Washers	5,000	\$190 - \$750
Swapping a 5.5 gallon per minute toilet unit for one that uses 2.5 gallon per minute	27,000	\$1,015 – \$4,050

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