

## **Saving Water Inside**

### **Tips for saving water in the bathroom:**

Fix leaking faucets and toilets. It's easy and could save your family thousands of gallons of water per year. In fact, studies estimate that those drips and leaks add up to about 10 percent of all indoor water use.

Replace older toilets. Toilets sold before 1992 use 3½ or more gallons of water per flush. The current standard uses 1.6 gallons, but newer high-efficiency toilets use 1.28 gallons or less. Replacing older toilets with high-efficiency toilets could lower your home's water use by 15 percent.

Test your toilet for leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 15-20 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak. The most common source of leaks is a faulty flapper valve.

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Those extra flushes waste water and money.

Take a shower instead of a bath. A bath can use more than twice as much water as a 10-minute shower.

Cut a couple of minutes off your shower time. This will save about four gallons per shower. If you shower once a day, that adds up to 1,460 gallons of water a year.

Switch to low-flow showerheads. They use 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less. To see if you have one place a five-gallon bucket in your shower to capture the flow. Turn the shower on for two minutes. If the bucket overflows, replace the shower head.

Install aerators on your faucets. These inexpensive items mix air into the flow while maintaining the pressure. You won't notice the difference, but you'll cut your faucet water use in half.

Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving. Running the faucet for a couple of minutes while you're not using the water wastes two or more gallons.

### **Tips for saving water in the kitchen:**

Load up the dishwasher. Waiting until you have a full load to run saves water and energy.

Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Scraping instead of rinsing dishes before you load them can save you 10 or more gallons of water per load.

Install an aerator on your faucet. It will mix air into the flow, while maintaining the pressure. It's inexpensive. You won't notice the difference in the water flow—but you'll cut your faucet water use in half.

When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running while you wash. Fill the second side of the sink with rinse water instead. Besides, you're fighting a losing battle when you compare washing those dinner dishes by hand (16-25 gallons) with today's energy efficient dishwashers (4-7 gallons).

**Tips for saving water in the laundry room:**

Wait until you have a full load to use the washer. This saves both water and energy. If you must do a smaller load, adjust the water level accordingly.

Replace a conventional washer with a high-efficiency one (that uses 27 gallons per load or less) and you'll lower your energy bills and use about 38 percent less water. That's 5,000 to 7,000 gallons per year for the average household.