

More ways to conserve water at home:

1. Evaluate your water habits.
Have a family discussion about water use and ways to cut down. For example, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth? Do you take extra long showers? There are simple things you and other family members can do to start saving water today.
2. Look for leaks and repair them right away.
Most leaks are easy to detect and repair. For sinks, check faucets and pipes for dripping water. Replace washers, and repair or replace fixtures, if needed. For toilets, add food coloring to the tank water and check the bowl in 15 minutes. If there's color in the toilet bowl, it means there's a leak.
3. Also check your water system for leaks.
This is easy to do. Just follow these steps:
 - a. Locate your water meter. Read the meter first at night, after the day's water use has ended, and again in the morning before any water is used.
 - b. Subtract the first reading from the second reading to tell how much water, if any, leaked out.
 - c. Then look for leaks. Find them by checking pipes, hoses, and connections. Have any leaks repaired right away.
4. Install water-saving devices.
If you don't already have water-efficient or low-flow fixtures, you can cut your water use with:
 - a. aerators (devices that mix air with water)
 - b. low-flow fixtures (such as shower heads), flow restrictors or cut-off valves
 - c. displacement devices (to reduce the amount of water used in older toilets). Make sure all devices are properly installed.
5. Save water while preparing food.
 - a. Use a brush and bowl of water to clean food instead of letting the water run.
 - b. Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
 - c. Reuse water when you can. For example, when you cook vegetables, save cooking water for soup stock.
6. Flush the toilet only when necessary.
Don't use the toilet to dispose of trash. Also, consider installing a low-flow toilet. Look for a toilet with a WaterSense label in it.
7. Know the proper settings on your washer.
To help lower your water and energy bills, choose a water and energy-saving model if buying a new washer. Be sure it has such features as:
 - a. a load size selector
 - b. variable water temperature controlsUse the load selector to match the water level to the size of the load. Presoak heavily soiled items.

8. Wash dishes wisely
If you use a dishwasher, wash only full loads.
If you wash dishes by hand:
 - a. Scrape dishes (but don't pre-rinse) and soak pots and pans before washing.
 - b. Don't run the water continuously.
 - c. Limit your use of the garbage disposal.
Better yet--compost.

9. Be efficient in the shower and bath.
Plug the drain before you run water for baths, and take shallow baths. If you run water to get it hot, catch cold water in a bucket for later use. Keep showers short (try to shorten the time you shower by at least a few minutes) with pressure at low force. Shut off the water while soaping up and shampooing.

10. Check hoses and irrigation systems.
Use a hose nozzle that you can shut off or adjust to a fine spray. When finished, shut it off at the house to avoid leaks.
You should also:
 - a. Check hoses and connectors, repair or replace any leaks.
 - b. Consider a drip irrigation system. It allows water to slowly soak down to the roots to help reduce evaporation.
 - c. Keep irrigation systems running efficiently. Install shut-off devices like rain or soil-moisture sensors. Repair, replace or adjust sprinkler heads. Check often for leaks, and perform other maintenance at least yearly.

11. Minimize watering outdoors.
 - a. Water when the sun is down, to avoid evaporation, and when it's not windy. Water slowly, deeply and as little as possible.
 - b. Let grass grow taller in hot weather. Use mulch in the garden and around shrubs to save moisture.
 - c. Plant shrubs and other plants that don't need a lot of watering. Consider alternatives to big, thirsty lawns, such as native grasses.
 - d. Obey any watering restrictions in your community.