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## WAYS TO SAVE



# WATER & MONEY

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ater—with the turn of a handle, you get as much as you want, whenever you want it. So it's easy to forget that water is a carefully prepared product that has to be purchased like any other product. And whether it's used or wasted, you pay for every drop of water that flows through your meter.

While you can't control the amount of water you truly need—you can control the amount of water you waste. And there are many ways to reduce water waste if you are willing to make a few simple changes in your lifestyle.

Using the tips in this brochure, you'll help conserve a valuable resource that shouldn't be wasted, and you'll save money too.

Up to five gallons of water a minute goes down the drain when taps are left running. Here are some ways to save hundreds of gallons of water a year.



## 1

*Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator,* instead of running the tap until the water cools.

## 2

*Turn off the water while scrubbing vegetables.* Clean them in a partially filled pan or sink.

## 3

*If you wash dishes or pans by hand, don't leave the water running to rinse them.* Rinse in the sink, a pot or a dishpan.

## 4

*Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.* Wet your toothbrush, then fill a glass with the water you need for rinsing.

*By making some minor changes in your habits and replacing or adding some inexpensive parts, you can substantially reduce your bathroom water waste.*

5

**Take shorter showers.** At five to 10 gallons a minute, a 10-minute shower can use as much as 100 gallons of water. Limit your shower to the time it takes to: 1) soap up, 2) wash down and 3) rinse off. (You might even consider turning the water off during step two.)

6

**Check for and repair toilet leaks.** Toilets are notorious for their leaks, sometimes wasting as much as 100 gallons of water a day. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the bowl shows traces of food coloring 10 or 15 minutes later (without flushing), you have a leak. Remember, flapper valves need to be checked at least once a year.

7

**Install water-saving showerheads.**

Hardware and plumbing supply stores sell inexpensive, easy-to-install showerheads that can reduce your water use by 50 percent or more without reducing the pleasure of an invigorating shower. Look for a low-flow showerhead that uses three gallons a minute or less.

8

**Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.** Every time you flush the toilet to dispose of cigarette butts, tissue, bugs or bits of trash, you are wasting water.

9

**Train your toilet to use less water.** Simply fill a plastic jug with water and weight it down with a few stones. Place it inside the tank in an area that does not interfere with the operation of the moving parts. Each time you flush, you will save as much water as is displaced by the jug. **Caution:** Never use bricks as a displacement device. They will erode and the particles will clog your drainage system.

*Here are some miscellaneous ways to save water indoors.*

**10** *Reuse water when you can.*

For example, bath water and aquarium water can be used for watering plants.

**11** *Wash only full loads in your washing machine.*

Each run uses 30 to 40 gallons of water. If you have a setting for smaller loads, be sure to use it when you are washing just a few things.

**12** *Consider an appliance upgrade.*

Replace your old clothes washer with a front-loading, low-water-use model.

**13** *Fix dripping faucets.*

A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Often you only need to replace a washer to stop a drip.

**14** *Wait until the dishwasher is full before you run a load.*

Dishwashers use about 15 gallons of water each time they are run.

**15** *Never pour grease or oil down a drain.*

Besides clogging the drain, you'll use a great deal of water trying to wash the grease out of the pipes.

**16** *When eating out,*

encourage restaurants to serve water only on request.



*During the summer, nearly half of the water used by homeowners is used outside. Changing your outdoor water use habits can make a big difference on your water bill.*

**17**

*Use a bucket of water to wash your car or dog.* A continuously running hose can dispense up to 75 gallons of water in just 15 minutes or 300 gallons in one hour.

**18**

*Use a broom—not a hose—to clean driveways and sidewalks.* You'll save water and get a little exercise too.

**19**

*Water lawns, gardens and landscapes early in the morning when evaporation rates are at their lowest.* When you water in the heat of the day, you can lose 40 to 60 percent of the water to evaporation.

**20**

*Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground.* Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground. Some sprinklers, especially those that throw mist or small droplets of water high in the air, can cause you to lose as much as 50 percent of your water to evaporation.

**21**

*Don't water streets, sidewalks or driveways.* Place your sprinklers carefully to avoid this kind of waste.

**22**

*Water only when the lawn begins to show signs of stress.* Look for discoloration, wilting or footprints that remain visible after someone has walked across it. Most people grossly over-water. One to one-and-a-half inches of water once a week will keep most Texas grasses alive and healthy.



23

***Plant native and drought-tolerant plants.*** Many beautiful trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses thrive on much less water than traditional landscape plantings.

24

***Use a watering can or hand water with a hose in areas that need more frequent watering*** (those near walks or driveways or in especially hot, sunny spots).

25

***Water your lawn properly.*** Water deeply and infrequently to promote good root growth and healthy plants.



SAVE  
WATER

NOTHING CAN REPLACE IT™

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