

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

INDOORS

1. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
2. Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
3. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
4. Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
5. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 2.5 to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four!
6. Use the garbage disposal sparingly and the garbage can more. You can save 50 to 150 gallons per month. Or compost your kitchen waste instead.
7. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, so that every drop goes down you, not the drain.
8. Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
9. Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
10. Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
11. Cut back on rinsing if your dishwasher is new. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
12. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save up to 1000 gallons a month.
13. When you shop for a new appliance, consider one offering cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy-efficient than older appliances.
14. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
15. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
16. Don't use running water to thaw food.
17. Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.
18. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month.
19. Install low-volume toilets.
20. Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
21. Listen for toilets that leak and dripping faucets. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.
22. Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
23. Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save hundreds of gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
24. Make suggestions to your employer to save water (and dollars) at work.



25. Encourage your school system to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children.
26. Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.
27. Do one thing each day that will save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts.
28. Bathe your young children together.
29. Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
30. Drop that tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save gallons every time.



31. Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
32. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
33. Check your washing machine hoses regularly for cracks that could result in leaks.
34. Choose new water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.

35. If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
36. Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.
37. If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.
38. Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance checkup. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.
39. Install water softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum number of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness.
40. Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients.
41. Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water than may be necessary.
42. Turn off the water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.
43. When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your houseplants.
44. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead.
45. To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
46. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water house plants.
47. Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
48. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
49. When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather up.



OUTDOORS

50. Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting xeric shrubs, ground covers and water efficient grasses, such as Blue Grama and Buffalo Grass. If you don't walk on it, you don't need it in bluegrass!

51. Incorporate 5 to 6 cubic yards of compost per 1000 square feet into your landscape planting beds, or when prepping your yard for new sod. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
52. When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your landscape plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.



53. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
54. Use your automatic sprinklers for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
55. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
56. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

57. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
58. Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart and 2½ to 3 inches deep so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
59. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
60. Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
61. Minimize evaporation by watering in the evening or during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
62. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.



63. Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Don't just "set it and forget it". Water your lawn no more than every three days, less frequently when temperatures are cool in the spring and fall.
64. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
65. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk. It can save 80 gallons of water, and is great exercise as well!
66. Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
67. Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees.
68. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.



69. When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant in your yard.
70. For outdoor hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.

71. Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
72. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a xeric, low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
73. Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is very effective, but be careful not to over water.

74. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
75. Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.
76. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
77. When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
78. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, no matter how much you water sidewalks and driveways, they won't grow!
79. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.



80. Wash your car on the grass. This will water your lawn at the same time.
81. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
82. Use a bucket and a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
83. Buy a rain gauge to track how much rainfall your yard receives. Just ½ inch of rain can eliminate the need for one or two irrigation cycles, depending on the season.

84. Teach your family how to shut off your automatic irrigation system. Turn sprinklers off if the system is malfunctioning or when a storm is approaching.
85. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water.
86. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually. You can train your turf to use less water by irrigating deeply and infrequently.
87. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
88. Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers. Visit your local nursery or garden center for more information about these water thrifty plants.
89. Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20 degrees F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.

90. When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
91. Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Small drops of water and mist evaporate before they hit the ground.
92. Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.



93. Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
94. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water landscape plants when necessary.
95. If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree, or your lawn.
96. Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
97. Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
98. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
99. Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water management district.
100. Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
101. Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.