

# CONSERVING WASHINGTON'S WATER

## how do i conserve?

### Home Conservation

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Water conservation is good practice whether or not there is a drought.

The largest amount of water consumed around your house is by watering your landscape and the use of your toilet.

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#### Here are some things you can do to save water around the house:

- Consider converting to low-water landscaping, also known as Xeriscape. Select plants, shrubs, and trees that need minimal water.
- Consider drip irrigation for plants, shrubs, and trees.
- Water your lawn early in the morning or later in the evening (but not too late, otherwise you will encourage fungal growth). Limit the water you use to approximately one inch per week, including rainfall. For best results, moisten the soil between 4 and 6 inches deep with each watering. This will encourage growth of a deep root structure that is more drought-resistant.

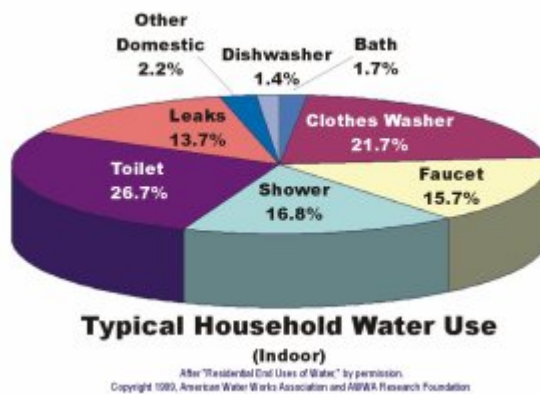
- If you have an older home, convert to water efficient toilets (1.6 gallons per flush), faucets and showerheads (2.5 gallons per minute - up to 75 percent less than conventional faucets and showerheads).

- Take shorter showers.
- Don't let the water run when you are shaving, brushing your teeth, or hand washing dishes. Turn on the tap only when you need it! Additionally, don't use faucets at full pressure.

- Make sure you have a full load before running your washing machine or dishwasher.

For more useful information on how to save water and use it more wisely, visit the American Water Works Association WaterWiser.

Also see drought information from the Washington Department of Health. Droughts have a marked effect on water utilities. Water utilities provide water to people's homes and businesses. The Washington Department of Health, the state agency responsible for working to protect the quality and quantity of drinking



water, is coordinates information on how utilities are respond to the drought.

### Indoor Conservation Tips

Conserving water is the right thing to do anytime of the year. Here are a few tips that can save you money on your water and sewer bill.

- Wash only full loads of laundry in your washing machine or full loads of dishes in your dishwasher. You'll not only save water, but energy as well.
- Turn the water off. Minimize faucet use when shaving, brushing teeth and washing dishes . Replace older bathroom faucet nozzles (aerators) with new ones that are rated at 2.5 gallons per minute, or less.
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- Fix leaking faucets and toilets. Research has shown that an average of 8% (or more) of all home water use is wasted through leaks. Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the bowl. Wait a few minutes, then look in the bowl. If the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak.
- Consider replacing any older toilets in your home with new low-flow models that use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets ten years or older may be using three-and-a-half to seven gallons per flush.
- Shorten your shower by one minute. Cut back on your shower time and you will rack up big savings in water and energy. If you really want to try and save water, limit your shower time to five minutes or less. Also, install a water-saving showerhead that uses two-and-a-half gallons per minute.
- Take showers instead of baths. A bathtub holds up to 50 gallons of water- much more than a normal shower would use. (A typical shower uses less than 20 gallons.
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- Consider purchasing a new water- and energy- efficient clothes washer.
- Don't pre-rinse dishes. Check to see if your dishwasher can clean dishes without pre-rinsing them. Most newer dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.
- Reuse clean household water. Collect all the water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet or showerhead. Use this to water your houseplants or outdoor planters. Do the same with water that is used to boil eggs or steam vegetables.

