Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation has become essential, even where water appears abundant. That’s because our water resources are finite, and they are getting stressed every year. Water conservation means using our limited water supply wisely and caring for it properly.

Conserving water can also extend the life of our sewer system; overloading our sewer systems can cause untreated sewage to flow our nearby waterways. The smaller the amount of water flowing through these systems, the lower the likelihood of pollution.

Water conservation requires forethought and effort, and every little bit helps. Don't think that what you do does not matter. The trick is making water conservation a way of life—not just something we think about once in a while.

Saving water at home does not require any significant cost outlay. Although there are water-saving appliances and water conservation systems such as rain barrels, drip irrigation and on-demand water heaters, **the bulk of water saving methods can be achieved at little cost.**

Installing low-flow aerators, showerheads, tank banks and other water-saving devices usually is a very simple operation which can be done by the homeowner and does not even require the use of tools. Naturally, address all leaks immediately.

* Water Conservation in Home

Easiest way to conserve is to turn the faucets off tightly to eliminate drips.

The most effective way to save water is to upgrade to efficient fixtures; however, there are other ways to help reduce the amount of water you use at home.

**Toilets:**

Installing an [**adjustable toilet flapper**](https://eartheasy.com/adjustable-toilet-flapper/) will allow for adjustment of each per flush use;

Consider installing a [**dual flush converter**](https://eartheasy.com/hydroright-drop-in-dual-flush-converter-kit/) that turns a standard toilet into a dual flush toilet.

New low flush toilets can save 40-50% of your water usage

**Laundry**

Use Clothes Washer for Only Full Loads
With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons (20 liters) for the extra rinse. Use the shortest cycle possible to obtain the cleanliness you want. For partial loads, if needed, adjust water levels to match the size of the load.

Consider a High Efficiency Washing MachineThe most efficient washing machines use as little as seven gallons per load

**Shower**

Install Water-Saving Showerheads, Shower Timers, and Low-Flow Faucet Aerators
“Low-flow” means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You can easily install a [**ShowerStart**](https://eartheasy.com/evolve-roadrunner-showerhead-with-showerstart-1-5-gpm/), or add a ShowerStart [**converter**](https://eartheasy.com/evolve-showerstart-converter-the-ladybug/) to existing showerheads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm.

Take Shorter Showers
Take a shower instead of a bath. One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse.

**Faucets and Sinks**

Fit Household Faucets with [Aerators](https://eartheasy.com/green-home/energy-conservation/water-conservation/)
A simple [**low-flow aerator**](https://eartheasy.com/low-flow-faucet-aerator-2-pack-0-5-gpm/) saves water in the bathroom, while a [**swiveling aerator**](https://eartheasy.com/dual-setting-swivel-faucet-aerator-1-5-gpm/) can serve multiple purposes in the kitchen. They also give the impression of higher water pressure.

Turn Off the Water after You Wet Your Toothbrush
There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Rinse Your Razor in the Sink
Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

Opt for the Dishwasher instead Hand Washing
Run the dishwasher with full loads only. It may seem counterintuitive, but it turns out washing dishes by hand uses a lot more water than running the dishwasher.

Don’t Let the Faucet Run While You Clean Vegetables
Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.

* Outside Your Home

Wash your car only when needed. Don’t Run the Hose While Washing Your Car. Clean the car using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose only for rinsing;

Use a Broom, Not a Hose, to Clean Driveways and Sidewalks

Blasting leaves or stains off your walkways with water is one way to remove them, but brushing with a broom to first loosen the dirt and grime will decrease your water use and save you time in the long run.

Water lawns every 3-5 days and apply 5 millimeters of water for each day between watering. Do not over water; our soil is sandy and it will NOT ‘store’ water. Use timers to control amounts of water. Never turn on the water sprinkler and leave for the day.

* **Leaks**

**Fix leaks promptly**

**Check Faucets and Pipes for Leaks**
A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Some faucet leaks are easily spotted, but others take a little more effort to locate. Dry sinks and tubs thoroughly and allow to sit for an hour. If you notice wetness, you’ve found a leak. To find leaks from faucet handles, dry the area around them before running water. You’ll see water collecting next to them if there’s a leak.

Check for Leaks in Pipes, Hoses, Faucets and Couplings

Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they’re not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

**Check Your Toilets for Leaks**
Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

Harvest Rainwater for Watering Vegetable Beds
Use [**rain barrels**](https://eartheasy.com/great-american-rain-barrel-60-gallon/) or a catchment system to capture valuable rainwater from your roof. Plants prefer untreated water, so your garden will be healthier

**By using water-saving features you can reduce your in-home water use by 35%.**

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