

## What You Can Do Indoors to Save Water

- Turn off the faucet while shaving, washing up, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.  
*The average person uses 10.9 gallons of water from the faucet a day.*
- Fix dripping and leaking faucets and toilets.  
*A faucet leaking 30 drops per minute wastes 54 gallons a month. See the USGS Drip Calculator link in the right hand margin of this page.*
- Don't run the tap to make water cold or hot.  
*Instead, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator.*
- Put a plastic jug filled with water in the tank of conventional toilets.  
*You'll save that much volume in water each time you flush.*
- Throw used facial tissues into the waste basket instead of using the toilet as a waste basket.  
*You'll save up to 6 gallons of water each time you don't flush.*
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.  
*The average dishwasher uses 8-12 gallons each usage whether or not it's a full load.*
- Install water-saving plumbing fixtures.  
*A low-flow shower head saves up to 7.5 gallons a minute.*
- Take shorter showers or fill the bathtub only part way.  
*The average person uses 15 gallons a day in bathing and hygiene.*

## What You Can Do Outdoors to Save Water

- Raise your lawn mower cutting height.  
*Longer grass needs less water.*
- Use a pool cover.  
*It will reduce water loss due to normal evaporation.*
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to save soil moisture.  
*Apply organic mulches 4 inches deep to keep plants roots cool, prevent soil crusting, minimize evaporation, and reduce weed growth.*
- Wash cars less frequently.  
*If your car desperately needs a bath, take it to a car wash that recycles water.*

- Sweep sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them.  
*Eliminating a weekly 5-minute pavement hose-down could save between 625 and 2500 gallons of water per year depending on the flow rate.*
- If your community allows watering, water lawns and gardens on alternate mornings instead of every day.  
*Less frequent watering will develop grass with deeper roots, and early morning watering minimizes evaporation.*
- When using automatic lawn watering systems, override the system in wet weather or use a rain gauge to control when and how much water to use.  
*A fixed watering schedule wastes water. Irrigate only when needed. It saves water and can actually improve your lawn's health.*
- Keep fire hydrants closed.  
*Preserve water and water pressure for fighting fires.*

## What You Can Do on the Job to Save Water

- Check for leaks and emphasize leak reporting and repair.  
*A few small leaks can add up to an astonishing amount of water.*
- Consider alternatives to discretionary uses of water that are not related to health and safety.  
*For example, use a broom instead of a hose to routinely clean sidewalks and driveways.*
- Turn off water-using equipment when not in use, including dishwashers, garbage disposals, and food troughs.  
*When on the job, we tend to overlook extra use of water and leaking equipment.*
- Work with all employees to develop methods and procedures that will reduce water use.  
*Evaluate how employees are using water and determine, with their help, more efficient alternatives.*
- Eliminate daytime landscape watering.  
*Water in the early morning and consider weather-based or moisture-sensing controls.*
- Reduce fleet washing as much as possible, or use water reclaim systems.  
*Use best-practice cleaning protocols.*

## Why Should Water Withdrawal Systems Conserve Water?

Other than maintaining a supply and demand balance, conserving water will realize the following benefits:

- Increased ability to handle emergencies such as drought, mechanical failures, or water contamination;
- Variable cost savings in energy and chemicals from reduced production, treatment, and water consumption;
- Deferment of expenditures for expansion of water withdrawal or wastewater treatment facilities by allowing existing water withdrawal and/or wastewater treatment systems to serve increasing demands;
- Greater efficiency and increased capacity in wastewater treatment facilities;
- Improved in-stream flows in source water and related water resources, reduced costs for habitat protections required for intake structures, and higher quality in wastewater receiving bodies; and
- Alleviation of competing demands for water resources.