

More Water-Saving Tips

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.

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.

Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.

When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.

When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.

Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.

When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.

Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.

Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.

If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.

Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.

If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.

Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.

Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.

When shopping for a new clothes washer, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some of these can save up to 20 gallons per load, and energy too.

When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink basin or a large container and rinse when all of the dishes have been soaped and scrubbed.

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.

To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.

While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.

Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent using the garbage disposal.

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.

When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.

Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.

Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.

Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.

Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.

Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time. Better yet, go to a car wash!