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WATER CONSERVATION

Tips For Saving Water

Where does the water go?

On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water every day. You can reduce your water use by as much as 30% if you are efficient.

Check appliances' connecting hoses and faucets for leaks. Even a pinhole leak can waste up to 170 gallons a day!

Toilet:

Flush only when necessary. Avoid using the toilet for a wastebasket. Every flush you eliminate can save between two and seven gallons of water. Install a water-efficient toilet. Test your toilet. Leaks waste water. Add several drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. If it's leaking, the color will appear in the toilet without flushing. Reduce water use. If you don't have a low-flow toilet, use plastic bottles filled with water and pebbles to displace water in the tank. Don't obstruct the float. Don't use bricks.

Bathroom Sink:

Brush teeth efficiently. Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth or shave. Turn the faucet on briefly to rinse.

Bathtub: Filling the tub uses about 50 gallons of water. Try bathing in just 10 gallons of water. Plug the tub when you shower, how full does the tub get? Plug the bathtub and start the hot water; wait to add the cold water until the water in the tub has reached the right temperature. When you've finished bathing, use the bath water to clean the tub.

Shower: To be a water saver, install a low-flow showerhead and keep showers under five minutes. Turn water off to soap up.

Washing machine: Match washer's load selector to your load size. Try to wash only full loads. Minimize detergent use. Save energy by using cold water to wash. Buying a new washing machine? Choose wisely. Find the one that conserves water and energy and has a suds-saver attachment. Washing clothes by hand can be easier and save water if you use only a small amount of low-suds detergent and presoak really dirty items.

Faucets: A household faucet runs at 3 to 5 gallons a minute. Avoid waste! Turn faucets off firmly. Twice a year, check all faucets inside and outside for leaks. Replace worn-out fixtures, washers, O-rings, and hose connections.

Water heater: Letting water run from the faucet until it heats up is a waste. Instead of sending it down the drain, capture clean water for other uses such as cleaning and watering plants. Insulate hot water pipes to save energy.

Garbage Disposal: Find a better way. Avoid using garbage disposals. Compost or feed your leftovers to pets when possible. Use recycled water in the disposal.

Dishwasher: Use a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean to limit pre-rinse. Let really dirty pans or dishes soak to speed washing. Limit dishwasher use to full loads. Minimize detergent use. Prepare food with an eye to reducing dishwashing.

Car wash: Choose a car wash that recycles water. At home, use a shut-off nozzle and wash your car in small sections. Direct the runoff to water landscaping.

Pools, Spas: Cover pools or spas to reduce evaporation. Avoid overflows and splashes by reducing water levels. Water your landscape with wading pool water.

Landscaping: Landscaping benefits most from slow, thorough, infrequent watering. Minimize evaporation by watering in early morning or evening. Aerate lawns. Install drip irrigation and automatic timers. Try to plant hardy, water-saving plants, trees, and shrubs, particularly native species. Mow less frequently in dry times. Limit lawn by using gravel or bark.

Cleaning House: Conserve when cleaning. For heavy cleaning, use water you've saved from other household uses and then a clean rinse. Limit soaps and cleaning agents.

Drinking water: At restaurants, request only the drinking water you need. At work, fill your durable cup at the water fountain to reduce waste. Cool drinking water in the refrigerator or with ice, not by running the tap. Use leftover drinking water for pets or to water plants.

Kitchen: Speed cleaning food by using a vegetable brush. Spray water in short bursts. Faucet aerators cut consumption. Plan ahead to defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator. Don't use running water. Use the microwave or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water. When washing dishes do one of two things; fill one side of the sink with water to rinse dishes in or turn the faucet on only long enough to rinse the dish. Never let the faucet run continuously to rinse dishes.

CONSERVING WATER:

Protects clean drinking water, a decreasing resource

Saves money in water and sewage rates

Reduces sewage treatment loads