

## Simple Steps to Save Water at Home

Reducing water use should start at home. By following a few simple steps, a family of four can save 50,000 to 100,000 gallons of water a year. That's a lot of water. As a bonus, they will also be saving energy.

We need to save water because:

- ◆ We have a limited amount.
- ◆ It is costly to pump, move, and purify.
- ◆ It is easy to reduce our water use in the home.



### Twelve Simple Tips to Save Water at Home

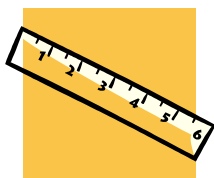
1. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Wet your toothbrush and half fill a glass. Use that water to rinse.



2. Take shorter showers. Limit your showers to five minutes or less.



3. If you take a tub bath, only use about 5 inches of water.



4. Do not let the water run when washing your hands.



5. Check your toilet for leaks.

- How can you find out if your toilet is leaking? Put 3 or 4 drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. Leave the toilet alone for about one hour then check the toilet bowl. If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.



- Usually leaks are caused by a broken flush valve. You can get a cheap and easy to install valve at your local hardware store.

6. Repair leaky faucets. One dripping faucet can use up to 25 gallons of water a day. Check faucets inside and outside for leaks.



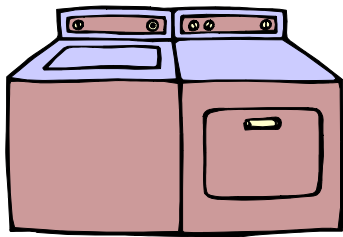
9. Set automatic dishwashers to the water saving or short cycle.

10. Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't run the faucet to get cold water.



7. Wash full loads of clothes.

- If you wash smaller loads, adjust the load size.



11. Use a small pool for outdoor play instead of the water hose. Playing with the hose or sprinkler on a hot day is fun but it uses a lot of water.



- Handwash several items at one time.

8. Use a pan or sink of water to wash and rinse dishes. Don't rinse dishes under a running faucet. Water plants with the used rinse water.



12. Catch water that runs while waiting for it to get warm (or cold). Use the water you save to water plants and for household cleaning.



13. Add a little exercise and save water by cleaning driveways, sidewalks and patios with a broom instead of a hose.



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