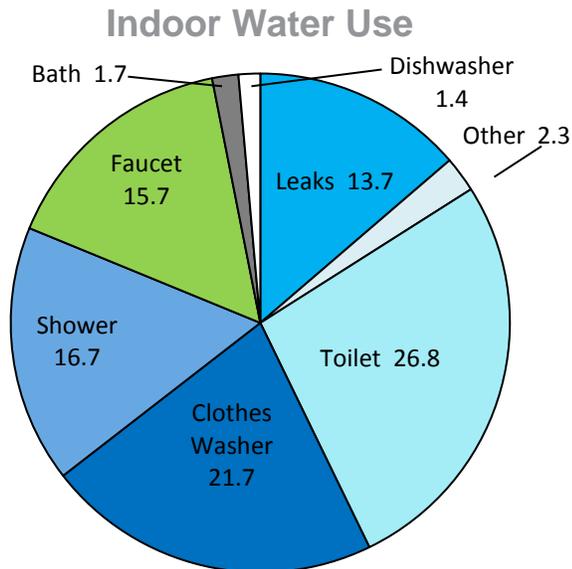


# Residential Water Conservation



## In the Bathroom

### Take shorter showers

Turn off the shower while soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water. Long, hot showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.

### Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators

Install a water-saving shower head. Older heads use 5-10 gallons per minute (gpm). All new fixtures use approximately 2.5 gpm and offer equal water coverage and force.

Fitting bathroom faucets with aerators saves 5-10 gallons a day. This single best home water conservation method is also the cheapest!

### 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.

### Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, 5-7 gallons of water is wasted.

### Turn off the water when brushing your teeth

Turning water off while brushing saves 5-10 gallons/person/day.



## In the Kitchen and Laundry Room

### 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.

### Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings.

With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 20 liters (5 gallons) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, consider buying a water-saving frontload washer.

### Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units

In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.

### When hand washing dishes, don't leave the water running for rinsing

If you have a double-basin sink, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water.

### Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.

### Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge.