

## House Hold Tips



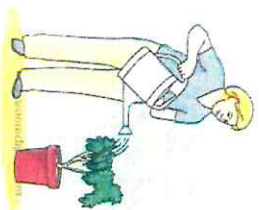
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water
- Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.

## Laundry Room

- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
- If clothing is not smelly or dirty wait another time before washing. Saves garment wear and water.
- Have a plumber re-route your grey water to trees and plants rather than the sewer line. Check with your city and county for codes.

## Bathroom

- If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a WaterSense® labeled model.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year.
  - Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
  - When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
  - If your toilet flapper doesn't close properly after flushing, replace it.
  - Use a WaterSense® labeled showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
  - Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
  - Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.
  - Turn off the water while washing your hair and save up to 150 gallons a month.
  - When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
  - Install water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
  - Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.
  - One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.
  - While you wait for hot water, collect the running water and use it to water plants.



## Garden and Landscaping

- Pull all weeds they take water from the plants you want to water.
- Mulch and cover with tarps (not plastic) to keep the water in.
- Cover walkways in gardens with tarps or heavy layer of hay and keep the water in.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over-watering some while under watering others.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region
- Plant species native to your region.
- Plant in the spring and fall, when the watering requirements are lower.
- Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Start a compost pile. Using compost in your garden or flower beds adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.
- Use automatic watering system that waters at night.
- Water for two or three times at night.
- Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture