



Water Saving Tips & Ideas

Kitchen & Laundry



- Don't rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher and only run when full.
- Wash small numbers of dishes by hand in a sink full of water and spray rinse in a rack.
- Wash fresh vegetables and fruits in a bowl full of water not under a running tap, use wastewater on houseplants.
- Steam your vegetables. You will use less water and also retain more vitamins
- Chill drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until it flows cold.



- Run washing machine only with a full load, but avoid overloading machine.
 - Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
 - If your machine has a "suds-saver" feature, be sure to use it (this reuses the clean rinse water for washing the next load).
 - Always select cold water for the rinse cycle and only use hot or warm water for very dirty loads or whites.
- Make sure your next clothes washer is a water-saving model to cut water use by as much as 33%

Bathroom



- Find and fix any toilet leaks. Put food dye in the tank and if it appears in the bowl after 20 minutes there is a leak.
 - Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket
 - Displace some of the water in toilet tanks with plastic bottle full of water. This is not necessary in low flow models.
 - Install early closing flapper valves in older toilets.
 - Avoid running water while brushing your teeth, shaving and washing.
 - Install low flow shower heads and taps
 - Take shorter showers, you can save 2,600 litres (700 gallons) of water per month
- Only partially fill bathtub for baths; one quarter full should be enough. Bath younger children together

Outside Water Use



- Add two to four inches of organic material, such as peat or compost, to the soil. Greater soil depth will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.
 - Mulch beds to a depth of 2" to 3" to reduce evaporation.
 - Use water-wise plants. Native and adaptive plants will use less water and be resistant to local plant diseases and pests. Choose drought tolerant plants whenever possible
 - When you cut your lawn, leave it at least six centimetres long to provide shade for the roots. This will allow the soil to remain moist and require less watering.
 - Collect rain water in an old barrel or other large container that is outfitted with a spigot and a suitable cover, and use the water on your garden.
 - Using a running hose to wash your car can waste about 400 litres of water. Using a bucket with a sponge plus a trigger nozzle on the hose will save you about 300 of those litres.
 - Use fountains and similar yard ornaments that recycle water
 - Water at the coolest time of day to reduce evaporation.
 - Do not water when it is windy to reduce evaporation
 - Position sprinklers to avoid watering driveways and walkways.
- Be sure your hose has an automatic shutoff nozzle to ensure water is not wasted when the hose is left unattended.