

PRACTICE GOOD WATER-USE HABITS

Kitchen

- Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing them, and do not pre-rinse dishes if you are using the dishwasher.
- Run the dishwasher with a full load to save water, energy, detergent, and money.
- If your machine has a “quick wash” or “light duty” cycle setting, use it!
- Fill a basin or the sink with soapy water instead of letting the water run continuously when washing dishes by hand. Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.
- Rinse produce in a pan of cold water instead of letting the water run.
- Transfer frozen foods to the refrigerator to defrost the night before you need them instead of letting water run over them.
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator rather than running tap water until it is cool enough to drink.
- Limit the use of garbage disposals and consider composting.

Laundry room

- Wash only full loads.
- Match the load setting with the amount of laundry to be washed if you must wash partial loads.
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads as it uses less water than other cycles.

Bathroom

- Use only as much water as you really need, and turn the water off when you aren't using it.
- Never use your toilet to dispose of trash.
- Run water just to wet and rinse the toothbrush instead of allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth. Apply the same idea when washing your hands.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath.
- Turn off the water while you are shampooing your hair.
- Find out what a “greywater system” can do and if it is right for your situation.



Texas Water Development Board

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Visit the following website
for additional information.

www.epa.gov/watersense

CONSERVING WATER INDOORS



YOU CAN EASILY SAVE WATER at home and at work through simple practices such as installing water-efficient fixtures and locating and eliminating leaks.

Water use in Texas averages 169 gallons per person per day. By adopting water-saving measures, you can reduce that amount and save money. Making a habit of conservation makes sense. It protects the water resources of both current and future Texans.



INSTALL WATER-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES

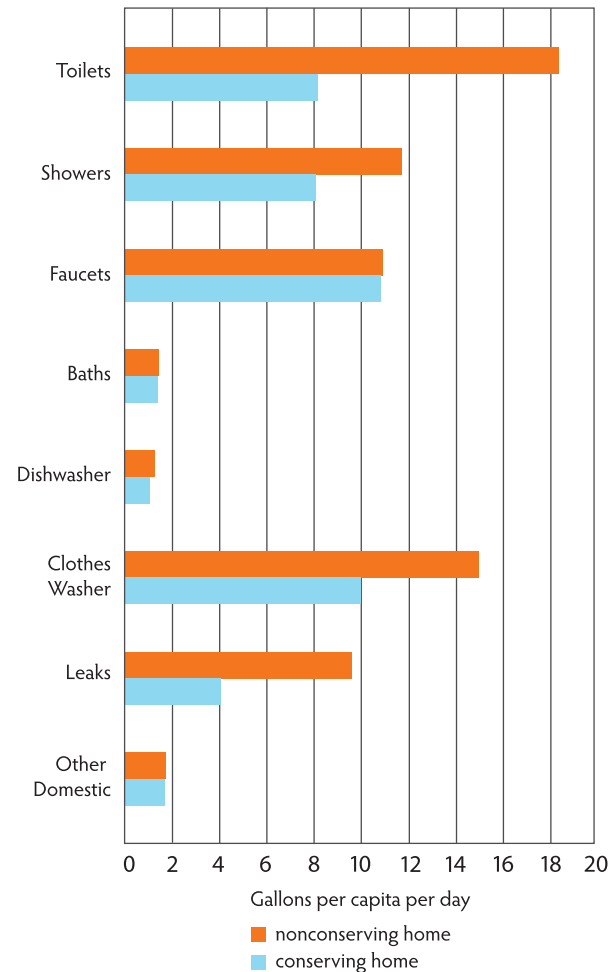
Toilets: Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for approximately 30 percent of indoor water use. They also happen to be a major source of leaks and/or inefficiency. Under state and federal law, toilets must not exceed 1.28 gallons per flush.

- Over the course of your lifetime, you will likely flush the toilet nearly 140,000 times. If you install a high-efficiency toilet, you can save 4,000 gallons per year.
- Many local utilities offer rebates to replace old toilets.
- A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day, and it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of all toilets leak.
- Test toilets for leaks. Once in a while, take the top off your toilet tank and watch it flush. Do you notice any leaks? Yes? Replace the flapper or rubber washer. Don't forget about those less obvious leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet to the water in the tank, but do not flush the toilet. If the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes, the toilet has a leak that needs to be repaired.
- Check toilet parts regularly. Replace worn parts with good quality parts as necessary, and retest to make sure the leak has been fixed.

Showers: Installing a water-efficient showerhead is one of the single most effective water-saving steps you can take inside your home.

Take shorter showers. A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water versus a 5-minute shower that uses as little as 10 gallons.

Average indoor water use in conserving versus nonconserving single-family homes in North America



The average indoor use in a conserving North American single-family home is 45.2 gallons per capita per day, and in a nonconserving home it is 69.3 gallons per capita per day.

Source: Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, 2001.

Sinks: Install faucet aerators on sinks for a simple, cost-effective way to save water. Aerators are inexpensive and do not require special adapters. The faucet's efficiency can double without sacrificing performance.

Faucet leaks are usually caused by worn washers or "O" rings (for a washerless faucet). Note the faucet brand, and take the original part with you to a home improvement center for an easy and inexpensive solution.

Washing Machines: When buying a washer, look for a high-efficiency model that has adjustable water levels for different load sizes. High-efficiency washers use 35 to 55 percent less water and 50 percent less energy. They also require less detergent, rinse more thoroughly, are less abrasive on clothes, and can fit larger capacity loads in the same size drum.

Dishwashers: High-efficiency dishwashers use a maximum of 7 gallons per load, but some use as little as 2.1 gallons. Replacing an older model with a water-efficient model could cut dishwasher water use in half. Look for energy efficiency features to cut costs even more.

DON'T WAIT TO FIX LEAKS!

Leaks waste both water and energy and could account for 10 percent or more of your water bill.

Use your water meter to check for invisible leaks.

- Turn off all faucets and any water-using appliances.
- Read the dial on the water meter and record the numbers. (It is often located along the property line near the street.)
- Recheck the meter after 15 to 20 minutes.

If the numbers on the meter changed while no water was used, you have a leak! The services of a plumber or trained water utility employee are often required to locate and fix these invisible leaks.

