

Water Wasting Facts

“Little leaks can add up to a lot of wasted water. A small drip can waste 70 gallons of water in a day, while a steady leak just one-sixteenth of an inch in size can send more than 1,000 gallons a day down the drain.” – Save Our Water*

Leaky faucets mean wasted water:

Drops per Minute	=	Gallons per Month
60	=	259
90	=	389
120	=	518



From American Water Works Association

Know where the master water shut-off valve is located in your house (if there isn't one, have one installed) to save water & prevent damage in case of a leak.

Leaky faucets are often caused by worn washers

Check under sinks, behind washing machines, and around basement plumbing for wet spots. Leaks waste water and can damage walls, floors, and ceilings.^

Installing aerators on bathroom faucets can save 1.2 gallons per person per day*

Letting your faucet run for five minutes uses about as much electricity as a 60-watt light bulb does in 14 hours[†]

“If all U.S. households installed water-saving features, water use would decrease by 30 percent, saving an estimated 5.4 billion gallons per day.”

– American Water Works Association

Remember: Water conservation not only helps your planet, but it saves you money on your water and sewer bills too. Saving a few gallons here and there add up to big savings in water usage and utility costs.

Resources

Information used to compile this pamphlet came from the following sources:

* Save Our Water, sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources, www.saveourH2O.org

+ Tarrant Regional Water District, www.savetarrantwater.com

^ Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, www.mwra.com

American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org

United States Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov

Thank you for doing your part to conserve water!

This information has been provided by:

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Water Saving Tips



Information on conserving water and reducing your utility bill

City of Harrington

Bathroom

Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving

Install a high-efficiency toilet to save 19 gallons of water per person per day*

Test for a toilet leak: put 10 drops of food coloring in the toilet tank; wait 15 minutes; if color seeps into the toilet bowl, then there is a leak.*

Don't have a high-efficiency toilet? Reduce the volume of each flush by placing a toilet dam or a water-filled plastic bottle weighted with gravel in the tank. Be sure not to interfere with the flushing mechanism.^

Fill the bathtub halfway or less to save 12 gallons*

Most toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools and a do-it-yourself manual.*



Install low-flow showerheads to save 2.5 gallons per minute*

Take shorter showers

A bath can use more than twice as much water as a 10-minute shower^

Shower test: hold a bucket under the shower-head for 20 seconds; if more than one gallon accumulates, you need a water efficient showerhead^

Kitchen

Install aerators on faucets to reduce the flow to less than one gallon per minute*

When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running. It is better to use the dishwasher too, it uses less water than hand washing does.†



Be water-wise with your dishwasher:

- Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher, scrape remnants off instead†
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher
- Install a water & energy efficient dishwasher

Laundry Room

Use the washing machine for full loads only

Install a water efficient washing machine and save 16 gallons per load*

Bonus: new efficient washing machines create less wear and tear on clothes, clean better, and use less detergent^

Outside

Watering lawns and plants:

- o Reduce watering days to once or twice a week and only when it is needed*
- o Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler*

Fact: Up to 30% of water sprayed on lawns from 10 am to 6 pm can be lost to evaporation†

Landscaping:

- o Layer mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep soil cool*
Bonus: mulch also reduces weeds
- o Grow native and adapted plants that thrive on less water†

Use less water for your pool or spa, install a pool/spa cover to reduce evaporation and filter backwash*

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn holds moisture better, slows down evaporation, and returns valuable nutrients to the soil†

Irrigation:

- o Adjust sprinklers so that only the lawn is being watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street*
- o Choose water-efficient irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, for trees, shrubs, and flowers*

Clean driveways, sidewalks, & patios with a broom instead of a hose*



Wash cars with a bucket, sponge, and hose with a self-closing nozzle*