



Water Conservation Tips

It's amazing how much water you can conserve just by paying more attention to the water you use in your house every day! Following these tips may save you hundreds... even thousands... of gallons of water every year saving you money and doing your part for the planet. Every drop counts... and every person can make a difference.

Inside Your Home

- Check for faucet leaks by setting a bowl or glass underneath a faucet for a night. See if there is a significant amount of water in the bowl or glass in the morning. A leak of one drop per second may waste 2,700 gallons annually!
- Check your toilets for leaks by dropping a small amount of food coloring in the tank behind the bowl. If your toilet is leaking, you will see dye in the bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as your test is done since food coloring may stain the bowl.)
- Fill a one-liter plastic bottle with water and place it in the corner of the toilet to displace water. Do not use material that could disintegrate and cause problems in the future (such as a brick).
- Do not use the toilet to dispose of trash
- Only spend as much time in the shower as necessary, and consider replacing your shower head with a "low-flow" model. Using a low-flow showerhead might save 1-4 gallons per minute!
- While in the shower consider turning the water off while you lather up.
- Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth, shave, or wash your face. For shaving, fill the sink basin deep enough to cover your razor and then rinse off your razor completely when you are finished shaving.
- Collect water wasted while waiting for hot water to reach the faucet or showerhead. Use this to water houseplants or outdoor planters.
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator so it will be cold and ready to drink.

- Only wash clothes or wash dishes when you can run a full load in the machine, or properly set the water level for the amount of items you will be washing in that load.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill the basin with soapy water, and only let a very small stream of water out of the faucet to rinse the dishes.

Outside Your Home

- When washing your car, only spray the car to wet it down and rinse it off... avoid spraying the car to spread soap around. Use a little elbow grease!
- Don't overwater your lawn. Even in a dry climate like the Colorado front range, a good rainstorm may eliminate the need to water your lawn for a week or more.
- Watch your grass grow! Longer grass blades actually encourage deeper rooting, better shade for the roots, and allows more water retention. Consider leaving the height of your blades of grass at about 3 inches.
- Don't hose down your driveway to rid it of debris. Instead, use a broom or a blower to move leaves, rocks, and sand. Hosing down an average size driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Consider Xeriscaping your yard. Xeriscaping is landscaping with a focus on water conservation. Follow the link to Denver Water's Xeriscaping section to see that Xeriscaping is not just simply dirt, rocks, cacti and lawn ornaments.

Conservation is a practice. Make sure you practice conservation even when someone else is "footing the bill" such as at a neighbor's house or in a hotel. Remember: Water is a precious resource we must have to live, and we can not afford to waste it. Use water wisely... CONSERVE!

Many thanks to the City of Arvada for contributing some water conservation tips.