

Efficiency in the bathroom...

- ◆ If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, enough water to fill an entire lake -- about a mile long, a mile wide, and four feet deep -- could be saved each day.
- ◆ Check all your toilets for leaks. Very often these are silent leaks that you don't realize exist until they have wasted hundreds of gallons of water. Add 10 drops of food coloring in the top tank, then don't flush for 15 minutes. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, you have a leak. Find it and fix it.
- ◆ Since 1992, new toilets installed in Texas homes must only use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. Replacing older toilets promises significant savings. If this isn't practical, consider using some type of toilet tank displacement device to reduce the amount of water in the tank. (Do NOT use bricks for this purpose because they eventually crumble and can damage the working mechanisms.)
- ◆ Take shorter showers...period. Shortening a 10 minute shower to five minutes can save 25 gallons of water.
- ◆ Don't run the water while brushing teeth or shaving...just turn on enough water to rinse the toothbrush and sink.



Some experts estimate that about 75 percent of the water we use at home is used in the bathroom.

Taking a shower instead of a bath will usually save water, and installing a low-flow showerhead may well be the single most effective water conservation measure you can take.



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*The water we
conserve today
can serve us
tomorrow.*



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*Learn to
Use Water
Wisely...*

At Home



Cutting back on the amount of water we use is often just a matter of applying common sense. The days of cheap, plentiful water are behind us -- and rising costs are on the horizon. It is time to stop taking our valuable water resources for granted...and to develop a new mind-set about using water more efficiently.

Here are some proven ways to be Water Smart at home. Make a commitment to conserve...and see how much water and money you can save!

- ◆ Rule number one...NEVER pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it...perhaps to water your indoor plants.
- ◆ Be creative! Think of ways to extend the usefulness of the water you use. How about placing a plastic container on the

shower floor to capture water that would just go down the drain...another good source for watering plants or household cleaning chores.

- ◆ Families use water differently, but national statistics suggest that nearly 40 percent of the water we use at home gets flushed down the toilet; more than 30 percent is used in showers and baths; doing the laundry and washing dishes take about 15 percent; leaks drain off 5 percent or more...and that leaves just 10 percent to use for everything else.
- ◆ Another huge water waster is leaks...drips from leaky faucets, leaky toilets, and leaky outside spigots add up in a hurry. Even a leak that drips just two tablespoons a minute accumulates to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week or 5,460 wasted gallons a year....and that's money down the drain.



Let's start with ways to save water in the kitchen...

- ◆ Fill a pot or bowl -- or put the stopper in the sink -- when cleaning vegetables and fruit, or for washing pots, pans and cooking utensils. Then, when emptying the water, run the disposal for a "two-fer."

- ◆ If your family drinks a lot of water, try keeping a bottle of water in the refrigerator. This eliminates the wasteful habit of running tap water until it gets cold enough to drink, and can save between 200 to 300 gallons a month.
- ◆ When purchasing new appliances, check the water requirements of various models and brands...some use less water than others.



- ◆ Only run the dishwasher with a full load to save water, energy, detergent and money. Check the owner's manual...you may not need to fully wash off the dishes you're loading -- scraping them off will probably work just as well.
- ◆ Use less water for cooking. This not only saves water but the food is more nutritious when the minerals are not boiled out of it and poured down the sink.
- ◆ Use the disposal sparingly, too. It takes a lot of running water to operate. Consider starting a compost pile -- that can help your garden thrive, too.

- ◆ Do you know which method of washing dishes is more water-efficient...by hand or in the dishwasher? Compare how many gallons of water your sink would hold to the 9.5 to 12 gallons a dishwasher typically uses for a regular cycle.
- ◆ Don't defrost frozen food with running water. Plan ahead to defrost it in the refrigerator overnight, or in the microwave. This can save 50 to 150 gallons of water a month.
- ◆ Install aerators or spray taps. An aerator mixes air with water, which not only cuts the flow, but also reduces splashing. A spray tap is similar, but can move from side to side like a small shower head, to put the stream of water exactly where it is needed.
- ◆ Before you reach to turn on the kitchen faucet, ask yourself, "Is it worth the use?" Fix that leaking faucet! A dripping faucet wastes more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking during an entire week!

