



CONSERVING WATER CAN SAVE YOU MONEY!

WE PAY TWICE FOR HOT WATER . . .

1) Energy to heat the water and 2) The water that we use.

AVERAGE FAMILY SPENDS BETWEEN **10-25%** OF UTILITY BILL ON HEATING UP WATER!

Cut your water bill by following these **LOW COST, NO COST TIPS**

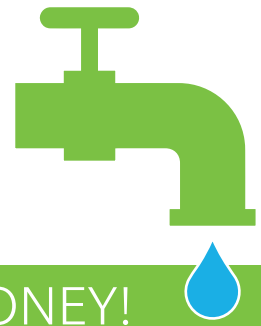
WATER HEATER

- ✓ Insulate all hot water pipes to reduce delays in waiting for the water to run hot. More cost effective to insulate the pipes at least 6' from the water tank (cold & hot). Reduces heat loss and raises your water temperature between 2-4 degrees
- ✓ Install heat traps on the hot & cold pipes at the water heater to prevent heat loss. Most new models have built in heat traps.
- ✓ Drain a quart of water from the tank every 3 months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of the heater.
- ✓ Be sure the water heater thermostat is not set too high. Use instructions to turn down thermostat to 120 degrees.
- ✓ Make sure to turn off power at the circuit breaker/or fuse box before working on the water tank.
- ✓ You can save an additional 5-12% on energy bill by installing a timer that turns off the water heater at night or during peak demand times.

IN THE BATHROOM

- ✓ Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. Saves 20 gallons / per day for every leak stopped.
- ✓ Install a low-flow shower head that limits the flow from the shower to less than three gallons per minute. This is the single most effective conservation step that can be taken inside the home. Saves 500-800 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Take short showers and install a cutoff valve, or turn the water off while washing and back on again only to rinse. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Take a shower instead of a bath. Showers use less water.

- ✓ If a shower is not available; reduce the level of the water being used in the bathtub by one or two inches.
- ✓ Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. Saves 200-300 gallons / per month.
- ✓ When building a new home or remodeling a bathroom, install a new low-volume flush toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush. Saves 350 gallons / per week.
- ✓ Test toilets for leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring to the tank, but do not flush the toilet. If the color appears in the bowl in a few minutes, the toilet has a silent leak that needs to be repaired.
- ✓ Use a toilet tank displacement device such as a toilet dam or bag, or a plastic bottle filled with stones or water and recapped. Placed in the tank, these devices will reduce the volume of water in the tank while still providing enough for flushing. Using a brick is not recommended since they eventually crumble and could damage the working mechanism. Displacement devices are not recommended with low-volume flush toilets.
- ✓ Never use the toilet as a trash can for cigarette butts, cleansing tissues or other trash. This not only wastes water, but also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.
- ✓ Do not use hot water when cold will do.
- ✓ When brushing teeth, turn the water off until it is time to rinse. Saves 35 gallons / per week per person.
- ✓ Do not let the water run when washing hands. Water should be turned off while washing/scrubbing, and turned on again to rinse.
- ✓ When shaving, fill the sink with hot water instead of letting it run.
- ✓ Install faucet aerators to reduce water consumption.



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IN THE KITCHEN

- ✓ Scrape the dishes instead of rinsing them before placing in dishwasher.
- ✓ Use a pan or sink filled with water for washing, rinsing pots, pans, dishes, and other utensils. By hand washing dishes just once a day and not leaving the water running for rinsing, you can save 200-500 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Never run the dishwasher without a full load. This practice saves water, energy, detergent and money.
- ✓ Use the garbage disposal sparingly or start a compost pile.
- ✓ Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running water from the tap until it cools is wasteful. Better yet, keep a picnic jug of cold water on the kitchen counter to avoid opening the refrigerator door frequently. Saves up to 300 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning vegetables, rather than letting the water run over them. Saves 150-250 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Always keep water conservation in mind. Small savings from not making too much coffee or letting ice cubes melt in the sink can add up in a year's time!
- ✓ Water temperature for the dishwasher should not exceed 140 degrees. Most energy is used to heat the water.
- ✓ Energy Guide label estimates how much power is needed per year to run the appliance and heat the water.
- ✓ Use the energy saver option and avoid using the "rinse hold" button on the dishwasher.

IN THE LAUNDRY

- ✓ Wash only a full load. By running only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher you can save 300-800 gallons / per month.
- ✓ Whenever possible, use the lowest water-level setting on the machine for light or partial loads.
- ✓ Use cold water detergents. For heavily soiled clothes use the soak cycle or prepare the load for washing by letting them soak in water for 10-15 minutes before the wash cycle.

- ✓ Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and conserve the hot water for uses that cold cannot serve. (This is also better for clothing made of today's synthetic fabrics.) This can cut energy by 1/2. Cold Wash cycles save \$25-\$45 / per year and Warm Wash saves \$15-\$23 / per year, versus using Hot Water.
- ✓ Washers with higher spin speeds can extract more water and reduce drying time, which saves more energy.
- ✓ New clothes washers and dryers are up to 5 times as efficient in the use of energy and water as existing units. Check out utility rebates. Make sure the new clothes washer model is MEF (Modified Energy Factor) 1.26 and water factor of 9.5 or less. (A water factor is the # of gallons of water used per cubic feet of clothes washed.) Front loading models use 30% less water and 50% less energy than top loading.

FOR APPLIANCES AND PLUMBING

- ✓ Check water requirements of different models/brands when purchasing a new appliance. Some use more than others.
- ✓ Check all water line connections and faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water EACH DAY, or 5,000 gallons a month, and WILL add to the water bill.
- ✓ Learn to repair faucets so that drips can be corrected promptly. It's easy to do, and can mean a substantial savings in water and plumbing bills.
- ✓ Check for hidden leaks such as between the water meter and the house. Turn off all indoor and outdoor faucets and water-using appliances. The water meter should be read at 10-20 minute intervals. If it continues to run, a leak probably exists.
- ✓ Use a moisture meter to determine when house plants need water. More plants die from over watering than from being dry.
- ✓ Insulate the water pipes throughout your home. By insulating the pipe, an average family can save about \$12 a year on energy bill. Insulation should be snug over tubing to prevent condensation, and all joints and slits should be firmly sealed.

Want to Learn More?

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