



How to

CONSERVE WATER SAVE MONEY

When you use less water you may also save money on your electrical and gas bills. Here are some quick tips for water conservation around your home.



Faucets

Repair those leaks: One slow-leaking faucet can waste up to 75 litres of water per day.

Don't run water unnecessarily. Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth and doing the dishes.

An effective and inexpensive way to conserve water is by installing a low-flow faucet aerator on all your household faucets.



Bath

Choose showers over baths and install a water-efficient showerhead which produces the same shower effect while saving water.



Kitchen

If washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water to rinse dishes rather than running the tap.

A dishwasher can actually conserve water compared to hand washing when you run it on full loads. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for energy efficiency and extra cost savings.



Laundry

Full loads make the most sense to conserve water even if your machine has an adjustable load setting. Like the dishwasher, use energy-efficient settings on your washing machine. If you are in the market for a new washer, consider a front loader, which uses much less water and electricity.



Toilet

The toilet is the largest water user in your home. If your toilet is older, it could use 13 to 20 litres of water to flush. Consider replacing it with a dual flush or low-flow toilet that uses as little as 3 litres to flush.

A dye test can detect hidden (and silent) leaks that can cost you countless litres of water. Lift the lid on the toilet tank, add some food colouring to the water in the tank and wait 15 to 30 minutes. If, without flushing, the colour shows up in the bowl, there is a leak and you should have your toilet repaired.

Outside

Outdoor water use can waste huge amounts of water. The best way to clean outdoors is to get out the broom and sweep. Using the hose to wash down sidewalks, driveways and pavements is a wasteful and unnecessary practice. For your vehicle, consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Your garden hose can use more than 30 litres of water per minute. Some of the ways to minimize water waste:

- Practise water-efficient lawn care
- Water early mornings or evenings to reduce evaporating water loss
- Longer grass requires less water and better protects the roots
- Water only what your plants need
- Use a spray nozzle with a cut-off handle on your hose so water doesn't flow continuously
- Check your hose connections often for leaks. Place a hose washer between the hose bib and the hose to eliminate leaks in that area
- Rake and sweep leaves — don't hose them away
- Use a rain barrel to collect water for your garden
- Consider water-efficient landscaping and plants
- For a copy of the *Beautiful Lawns and Gardens through Water-Efficient Landscaping* booklet visit OCWA's website at www.ocwa.com/publications.