



WATER CONSERVATION AT HOME

Some of us take for granted an abundant supply of good, fresh water. We meet our daily needs when we turn on the faucet and get seemingly unlimited running water.

Water conservation is everybody's responsibility and we must put water conservation into effect now to ensure adequate water resources in the future.

According to the American Water Works Association, the average U.S. resident uses about 110 gallons a day. Statistics for our part of the country show that a typical consumer uses 50 to 75 gallons daily inside the home. Most of our water consumption is used for toilets, followed by bathing, laundry, dishes, cooking and drinking.

Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for approximately 30 percent of residential indoor water consumption. Toilets also happen to be a major source of wasted water due to leaks and inefficiency.

WaterSense, a program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is helping consumers identify high-performance, water-efficient toilets that can reduce water use in the home and help preserve the nation's water resources.

High efficiency toilets (HETs) use 20 percent less water than the industry standard of 1.6 gallons per flush. Designed for water conservation, they use an average of 1.28 gallons per flush.

Whether remodeling a bathroom, starting construction of a new home, or simply replacing an old, leaky toilet that is wasting money and water, a WaterSense labeled HET is a high-performing, water-efficient option worth considering.

Go to www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

For More Information on water conservation, visit the following sites:

www.earth911.org

www.waterconserve.info

<http://environment.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.html>



Below are some helpful water conservation tips that you can practice at home!

- 💧 Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
- 💧 Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- 💧 Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan.
- 💧 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 to 300 gallons** per month.
- 💧 Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. **Saves 20 gallons** per day for every leak stopped.
- 💧 Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month.
- 💧 Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass, if it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. So set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. **Saves 750-1,500 gallons** per month. Better yet, especially in times of drought, water with a hose.
- 💧 Raise your lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.

~ Did you know? ~

-Ancient Egyptians treated water by siphoning water out of the top of huge jars after allowing the muddy water from the Nile River to settle.

-It takes 2,072 gallons of water to make four new tires.

-The first United States water plant with filters was built in 1872 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

- A person can live without food for about a month, but only about week without water.

For more information, call the Safety and Environmental Division at Extension 6-4613