

How to Be Water Wise

A Consumer's Guide to Water Conservation

A water wise home can help you reduce your water and electricity bills. Learn how to make your home Water Wise!

When you start saving water in your home you quickly see it's cheaper to conserve water than to waste it! Here are some tips for making your house Water Wise!

Tip 1: Fix Leaks

Fix leaks right away. Dripping faucets and leaky toilets account for a large portion of home water waste.

One drip every second from a leaky faucet wastes up to 3000 gallons per year!

Tip 2: Tune Up the Toilet

Leaks occur when the flapper valve doesn't seal. Check for common issues:

- The chain is snagging, not allowing the flapper to seal;
- The flapper is worn or warped and needs to be replaced.

Steps to Detect a Leak

1. Remove the toilet lid and put 4 – 5 drops of blue food coloring into the tank.
2. Wait 30 minutes. Do not flush.
3. If the water in the bowl turns blue, there is a leak in the tank.

Pro Tip!

Remove the old flapper and take it with you to the hardware store so you can find a matching replacement.

Tip 3: Use Your Water Meter

Leaks can often go undetected if they are underground or in an inaccessible area of your home. If your water bill is high but you can't see any leaks, check your water meter.

1. Turn off all water inside and outside the house.
2. If the flow dial or counter is moving or increasing, you may have a leak.

Tip 4: Shorter Showers

Bathing is the second highest use of indoor water. Bathing also uses energy to keep the water warm. A five-minute shower is usually all that's needed. Be sure to install a low-flow shower head.

Tip 5: Full Loads

When doing laundry or dishes, run full loads to be water efficient. Also consider purchasing WaterSense labelled products to save on both your energy and water bills.

Tip 6: Don' Let It Run

Make sure to turn off the tap when you don't need it!

If you're brushing, water shouldn't be running!

Tip 7: Sustainable Landscaping

- Use porous material for walkways and patios to prevent wasteful runoff and keep water in your yard.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while underwatering others.
- Start a compost pile. Using compost in your garden or flower beds adds water-holding organic matter to your soil.
- Avoid watering in the heat of the day, when you lose most of your efforts to evaporation.

More Information

Learn more about water conservation by visiting our website: bit.ly/H2OHEROES



To learn more about Water Supply in the Commonwealth, visit: bit.ly/DIVOFWATER

