

Water Conservation Tips for Your Home¹

General

- Repair leaks promptly. A small drip from a worn washer can waste 10 or more gallons a day.
- Install faucet aerators with flow restrictors.
- Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.



Bathrooms



- Check for toilet tank leaks. Drop food coloring or a leak-detection tablet in the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)
- Install a displacement device such as a plastic bottle weighted with water to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush. Never use a brick. Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts.
- Consider replacing old toilets (before 1992) with low-volume units which use less than half the water. Even better, get a dual flush toilet!
- Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Don't let water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.

Kitchens

- Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when full.
- Kitchen sink garbage disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile instead. Garbage disposals also can add 50 percent to the volume of solids in the sewer system or they can lead to problems with a septic tank.



Outdoors

- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle.
- Minimize or eliminate grass areas in your yard. Replace with native and drought tolerant plants. Practice Xeriscaping!
- Let your grass go dry in the summer.
- When mowing, raise the blade on your lawn mower to its highest level. Closely-cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water.



1. Water Conservation Tips were provided by the Water Information Program, P.O. Box 475, Durango, CO 81301