

Town of Southeast

Special Districts



Water Conservation

Water conservation can help owners save money and protect the environment. Consider measures today to preserve your water usage.

The average home in the US consumes about 69.3 gallons of water per person every day, according to a 1999 survey of 1200 homes by the American Water Works Association. Today that number has climbed up near 90 to 100 gallons per person every day.

By using more efficient fixtures, consumers can cut their water consumption by more than 30 percent. That is nearly 9,000 gallons per person each year or more than 35,000 gallons per year for a family of four.

Without any conservation measures, the average person (from a family of four) uses the following estimated amounts of water each day in their home.



18.5 Gallons	Toilets
18 Gallons	Clothes Washer (2 loads per person/week)
19.6 Gallons	Shower (four/week)
16.7 Gallons	Faucets (various duties)
9.5 Gallons	Leaks
2.6 Gallons	Domestic uses
3.2 Gallons	Baths (for 2 baths per month)
1.6 Gallons	Dishwasher

(This doesn't include water consumption outside the house)

Conduct a household water audit by using the simplified chart below. Indoors, estimate the daily use of each appliance for each family member. Outdoors, estimate the water used to irrigate lawns, gardens, wash cars and fill pools or hot tubs. Also, don't forget to estimate usage for any pets that you may feed, wash and maintain living space for. Combine all these numbers to get an average daily/weekly usage. You can multiply the daily number by 91 to estimate your average quarterly usage or multiply your weekly usage by 13 to also come up with a quarterly average. These are estimates only and vary based on each person's actual usage.

Without any conservation measures, the typical household appliance water consumption is:



Faucet	3 – 5 gallons / minute
Toilet	5 – 7 gallons / flush
Showerhead – Unrestricted	5 – 10 gallons per minute
Dishwasher	15 – 18 gallons / normal wash
Bathtub (1/2 full)	50 gallons
Clothes Washer	50 gallons / load
Shower (10 minutes)	65 – 100 Gallons
Running Garden Hose	100 Gallons / 15 Minutes
Watering Lawn	660 Gallons/1,000 Sq Ft for 1" of water
Water Softener	20 – 50 Gallons/backwash cycle



Consider the following reasons for high levels of water use. ★Are fixtures leaking or appliances old and inefficient? ★Is it the way you use the water, with long showers and many half full loads of laundry or letting the water run when you brush your teeth or while shaving?

Check the faucets and test toilets for leaks. Put a little food coloring in the toilet tank, but do not flush. If the color appears in the toilet bowl within **10** minutes, you have a leak.

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Conserve water by using technology to retrofit inefficient water appliances, equipment and processes. Many are very low cost, such as a flow restricting showerhead or a simple displacement device for water in the toilet tank, such as a gallon jug. High efficiency fixtures and appliances may have higher initial cost, but this is recovered over time by savings in water and energy.

Steps to conserve water

- Repair faucets to eliminate leaks.
- Install retrofit devices on faucets to reduce flow.
- Repair toilets to eliminate leaks.
- Install water displacement devices to reduce flow.
- Install high efficiency clothes washer and water efficient dishwasher.
- Turning off water while brushing teeth will save an average family of four **200** gallons of water per week.
- Use standing water in sink, not running water, to rinse your razor.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Take shorter showers and save at least **10** gallons of water per shower, saving over **1200** gallons per month for a family of four.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, rather than running the tap.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only with full loads.
- Water yards during the coolest part of the day.
- Water the grass not the pavement.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clear debris from the sidewalks.
- Reconfigure the timing for Softener backwash cycle based on usage not time.

For more information on water

Water Quality Association

www.wqa.org

The Groundwater Foundation

www.groundwater.org

American Water Works Association

www.awwa.org

US Drought Monitor

www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

USGS WaterWatch

www.water.usgs.gov/waterwatch

The Water Efficiency Clearinghouse

www.waterwiser.org

Soil and Water Conservation Society

www.swcs.org

