

Water Saving Tips

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

1. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads. Your automatic washer uses 30 to 35 gallons a cycle
2. Use your automatic dishwasher for full loads. Every time you run your dishwasher, you use about 25 gallons of water.
3. If you wash by hand, do not leave the water running while you rinse. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you have one sink, first gather all your washed dishes in quickly with a spray device or pan of water.
4. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This puts a stop to the wasteful practice of running tap water to cool it before drinking.
5. Do not let the faucet run while you clean fruit or vegetables. Rinse your vegetables, instead, in a bowl or sink full of clean water.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER IN THE BATHROOM

1. Check your toilet for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day.
2. Take shorter showers. A typical shower uses five to ten gallons of water a minute. Limit your shower to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.
3. Turn off the water brushing teeth. Your use as much as three gallons of water if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth.
4. Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors. Your hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive, easy to install showerheads or flow restrictors that will cut your shower flow to about three gallons a minute instead of five to ten.
5. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small drip can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day, seven days a week. An inexpensive washer is usually enough to stop them.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER OUTSIDE

1. Water you lawn only when it needs it. Watering on a regular schedule does not allow for spell or rainfall, which reduce the need for watering. Step on the grass. If it spring back up when you remove your foot, it does not need water.
2. Deep soak lawn. When you do water your lawn, water it long enough for water to seep down to the roots where it is needed. A light sprinkling that sits on the surface will simply evaporate and be wasted.
3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Watering during the early morning or evening prevents loss of water due to evaporation and wind.
4. Plant a layer of mulch around tree and plants. Mulch slows the evaporation of moisture.
5. Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps. Using a hose wastes hundreds of gallons water.

Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings. Leaks outside the house can be extremely wasteful, especially when they occur in your main water line or irrigation system. To check for hidden leaks in your pipes, you must shut off all faucets and taps around the house for 15 minutes and if the water meter reading advances during that time, you have a leak.