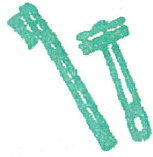
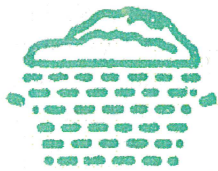


Sink



Do not leave the water running while shaving or brushing teeth. It is just as easy to turn the faucet on and off as water is needed or to use a stopper in the sink. Installing flow restrictors, or faucet aerators (devices which mix air with water for a fuller flow) on faucets in your home may save 3-5% of the total indoor water use.

Laundry



Automatic washing machines use about 40 gallons of water a load, whether the load is a week's worth of clothes or just a couple of washcloths. Save up for a full load to use water efficiently. Many washers have a setting for small loads; remember to use it when appropriate. When hand laundering, don't let the faucet run. Put a stopper in the washtub for both wash and rinse.

When purchasing a new machine, look for one that is water efficient and has adjustable load settings.

Kitchen



The big user of water in the kitchen is the automatic dishwasher. It will use up to 15 gallons a run, whether there is a full load or just a tea cup in it.

Dishes don't need to be thoroughly rinsed before they are put into the dishwasher. Usually if they are scraped clean first, the dishwasher can handle the rest.

When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running. Use a dishpan or filled basin. When scrubbing vegetables and preparing other foods, put a stopper in the sink instead of letting the faucet run.

Limit use of a garbage disposal. Save food scraps and run the disposal once to save water or dispose of scraps in the trash.

Keep a jug of water in the refrigerator instead of letting the water run until it's colder to get a drink. Remember to empty the water container every two weeks and wash it in hot soapy water. Rinse well before refilling. Shaking the jug to incorporate air will make the stored water taste fresher. Avoid filling a glass for a drink, taking a few sips, then pouring the remainder down the drain.

By becoming aware of our water use habits, we can reduce water use, eliminate waste and save energy and money.

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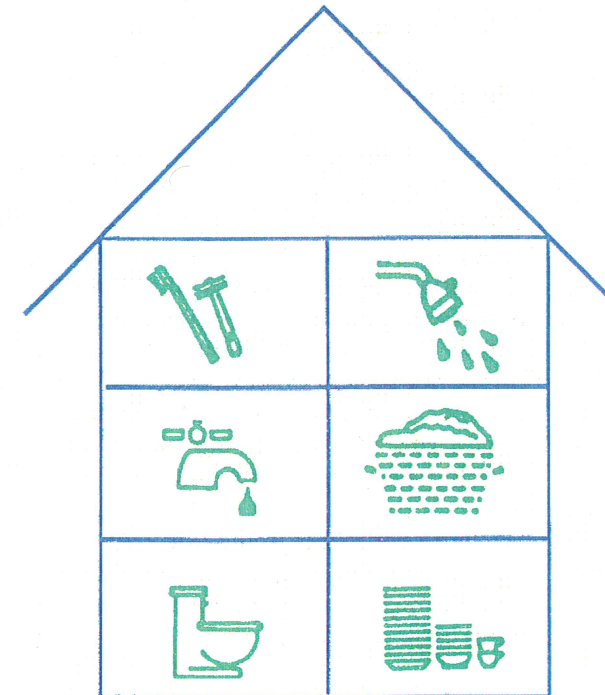
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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Fact Sheet 90-09

Making a Little Water Go a Long Way In Your Home



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

A Good Way of Life

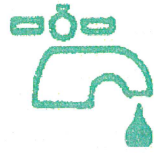
Efficient water use is a good way of life. We must remember where our water comes from and where it goes. A toilet flush uses up to seven gallons, water taps can flow up to five gallons a minute, showers use an average of eight gallons a minute, and leaks can waste hundreds of gallons a day.

How much water do you use in a day? Do you use 25, 50 or even 100 gallons? Few people know how much they use. U.S. indoor residential water use is estimated to average 77 gallons per person per day.

When we are aware of water, it becomes easier to conserve it. It is easy to conserve water and it doesn't have to change our lives drastically - it is mostly common sense. It is easier to change our habits and reduce consumption now, before that day in the future when there might not be any other choice, and the changes would be drastic. We must continually think about our water and develop simple habits to conserve it.

We can save water in the home by eliminating leaks, installing water-saving devices and developing water conserving management habits.

Leaks



Leakage accounts for 5 to 10 percent of all residential water consumption. Most of this is caused by worn-out faucet washers and

faulty toilet tank valves.

A steady drip can waste 20 gallons or more per day. A leak that is a 1/32" stream wastes 170 gallons per day.

Leaks in faucets are commonly the result of worn washers and seats. If faucet drips after it has been firmly turned off, turn off the supply line, take the faucet apart and replace the washer and sometimes the seat. It is usually not very difficult, although some faucet designs do present a challenge. Any good household do-it-yourself book offers easy-to-understand instructions.

It's important to get the washer size right. The washer has to fit inside a cup on the valve stem and spread out to the edges when it's screwed down. The seat fits within the water supply line and is easily removed with a seat tool, available at any hardware store. If the drip is still there after the new washer is in place, something else may be wrong. Get in touch with a plumber.

A more serious type of leak occurs in toilet tanks and can waste 200 gallons of water a day without making a sound. Because the leaking water runs from the tank into the bowl, it can't be seen.

A simple way to check for a toilet leak is to remove the tank cover and place a few drops of food coloring in the tank,

preferably at a time when the toilet will be unused for several hours. If the color seeps into the bowl, there is a leak.

An experienced do-it-yourselfer can make this repair. If not experienced, call a plumber. Correcting these wasteful leaks is usually the easiest and least expensive way to reduce water consumption.

Toilets



Forty percent of water usage in the home goes for waste disposal through the toilet.

Most toilets use more water than is necessary and can operate just as well on less. There are a variety of ways of reducing their water use.

There are two inexpensive, safe and easy ways to use plastic containers to save water in the toilet tank. 1. To displace water, take a plastic jar or bottle and put a few rocks in the container for weight. Fill with water, replace the cap and put the container in the tank.. 2. To keep part of the water from flowing out of the tank when flushed, trap some of the water. Cut the top off of a plastic gallon jug. Put clean, heavy stones in the bottom of the jug and place in the toilet tank.

Choose either method and type and size of plastic container that will best fit the space in your toilet tank without interfering with the flushing mechanism.

Do not use a brick to displace water. The brick can deteriorate in the water and the loose particles may cause problems in the

flushing mechanism. Plastic toilet dams and other retrofit devices can be purchased at hardware stores.

Do not displace so much water that you have to flush twice to get it to work each time. Double flushing wastes more water than is saved.

When replacing a toilet in your home, consider one of the new ultra low flush models. They work efficiently on as little as one gallon of water. Also, remember that the toilet should not be used to flush away facial tissue, cigarette butts, spiders or anything else that should go into the waste basket.

Showers



Showers normally use between five to ten gallons of water a minute. A five-minute shower can use over 40 gallons of water and

longer showers are an extravagant waste of water. Showers usually use less water than a bath. Cutting down on the amount of water used in the shower will conserve energy as well as water and lower the utility bill.

Replacing a shower head with a low flow shower head or inserting a flow restrictor in an old head can reduce the flow of water to 1.5 to 2.5 gallons per minute. Take shorter showers and turn down the faucet. Turn water off while soaping up hair or shaving, then turn back on for rinsing.