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Water Conservation in the Home

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WATER CONSERVATION IN THE HOME

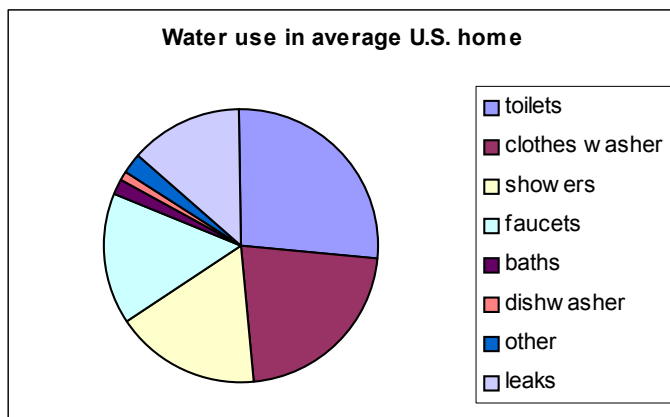
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TIPS TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR HOME

The average household in Utah uses about 650 gallons of water per day. About half of that water is used in the home. We're fortunate to have good quality water in Utah, but drought periods remind us that water is not limitless. We have many opportunities to save water throughout the house. Most of these are as simple as fixing a leak or making a small change in our habits. In addition to saving water, some of these tips will also help save energy and save you money.



Source: City of Albuquerque, 2002

TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR BATHROOM:

Check your toilet for leaks:

Take off the toilet tank cover and add 10 drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. Wait 15 minutes, then check for color in the toilet bowl. Any color in the bowl indicates a leak, which should be fixed immediately.

Remember also to check the flapper periodically to make sure it has a tight fit.

A leaking toilet can waste 15 gallons of water a day

Check the water level in the toilet tank.

The fill line in the tank should be about ½ inch below the overflow tube.

Water spilling over this line can waste hundreds of gallons each day.

Place a 2 liter filled bottle in the toilet tank.

This will reduce the amount of water used each time you flush your toilet.

This saves about ½ gallon per flush on any toilet.

Don't use your toilet for a wastebasket.

Drop tissues and other trash in the wastebasket and save the water you would use with each flush.

Each flush of a standard toilet uses 3.5 to 7 gallons.

Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.

Wet your brush then turn off the water while brushing. Rinse briefly when finished. You'll save over 9 gallons of water each time you brush.

Leaving the water running can use 10 gallons of water each time you brush.

Take shorter showers or take a bath if you want a long soak.

Shorter showers save water and energy. Note that some new tubs can hold up to 50 gallons, which won't save much water.

A 10 minute shower can use up to 70 gallons. A full standard size tub uses about 20 gallons.

Fix dripping or leaking faucets.

Fix drips and leaks immediately. Often the fix is as simple as a new washer.

A faucet that drips 1 time each second will waste almost 9 gallons per day (over 3000 gallons per year).

Install water saving shower heads, faucets and toilets.

Water saving shower heads use 2.5 gallons per minute or less. You'll also save in energy costs by using less hot water. These shower heads are available at most hardware stores and are relatively inexpensive and easy to install.

Save 25 to 50 gallons of water during a 10 minute shower.

Low flow toilets (required in all new construction) use 1.6 gallons per flush.

This saves about 2 to 5 gallons per flush compared to an older toilet.

Faucet aerators can be attached to most existing faucets, and use 1.5 gallons per minute.

Aerators can save 1 to 5 gallons per minute compared with older faucets.

TO SAVE WATER IN THE KITCHEN:

Fill the dishwasher.

You use the same amount of water for a full dishwasher as a half full dishwasher.

A standard dishwasher uses 15 gallons.

Use your dishwasher's water saver cycle. If buying a new dishwasher, choose one with water conserving features.

Many dishwashers have shorter cycles that get your dishes clean but use less water and less energy.

These will save up to 30% of your water use.

Use a dishpan or a stopper in your sink.

Dishwashing by hand or rinsing vegetables and fruit with the tap running can use up to 30 gallons. Use a dishpan or stopper in the sink.

Using a dishpan instead of running the water can save 25 gallons.

Keep a pitcher of drinking water in your refrigerator.

This will save water you might otherwise waste when you let the faucet run until the water is cool.

Running your faucet can use 3 to 7 gallons each minute.

TO SAVE WATER IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM:

Select the proper level for each load of laundry.

A full cycle at the top level uses 40 gallons per wash.

If buying a new washing machine consider high-efficiency.

Consider a front loading machine or a high-efficiency washer.

These machines use about 25 gallons per wash, and are big energy savers.

TO SAVE WATER AROUND THE HOME:

Clean your sidewalks, driveways and patios with a broom instead of a hose.

You'll not only save water, but reduce pollutants that run off into our streams.

Clean your car at a commercial car wash that recycles its water.

If you do clean your car at home, wash the car over your lawn instead of the driveway.

This not only re-uses the water, but also prevents dirty and soapy water from running off into the storm drains and into our streams.

Reuse the fish tank water.

Water the plants with your old fish tank water. Your plants will love it.

SOURCES:

American Water Works Association Water Wiser Water Efficiency Clearinghouse

<http://www.waterwiser.org/>

City of Albuquerque Water Conservation Office

<http://www.cabq.gov/waterconservation/indoor.html>

USGS Domestic Water Use

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/tables/dldo.html>

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