



Water Conservation - Fact Sheet

How we use water in our homes can really make a difference. Conservation practices need not be expensive, difficult, or inconvenient, but they do mean simple changes to everyday habits. By conserving water, you will protect the environment and help lessen the impact on the sanitary sewer system.

Typical Water Usage:

Toilet flush = 5 gallons

Dishwasher = 12 gallons per load

Washing machine = 47 gallons per load

Bath = 36 gallons per tub

Brushing teeth, showering or washing hands = 4 gallons per minute

What you can do to help...

Check for leaks in faucets, toilets, hoses and pipes.

- A steady drip wastes up to 20 gallons per day, and a leaky toilet can waste 100 gallons per day.
- To check for leaks, turn off everything that uses water. Record the reading on your water meter. If after 20 minutes the reading has changed, you have a leak somewhere. Toilets are prime suspects. To check, drop food coloring into the tank. If after a few minutes color appears in the bowl – you have a leak.

Install low water use devices which save both water and money.

- Installing an aerator on each faucet and a low flow showerhead can reduce flow by 50 – 75%.
- Purchasing a water saver washing machine and a low consumption model toilet.
- Putting a quart plastic bottle filled with sand or stones in your toilet tank to displace water can save many gallons a day. Just be sure it's not in the way of your flush mechanism.

You can save without inconvenience or expense by trying these ideas in your home:

- Don't use toilets as ashtrays or trashcans. Each unnecessary flush wastes water.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Wash full loads of laundry whenever possible.
- Use your dishwasher only when it's full.
- Keep drinking water in the fridge instead of running water until it's cold.
- Add garbage to the trash instead of using a garbage disposal, which use lots of water and adds unnecessary solids to the sewer system.
- Keep your water softener's regeneration cycles to a minimum. Turn it off during vacation.



For more information, please visit www.lasa.org.