

How many gallons of water do you use per day?

The average American uses 80 to 100 gallons of water daily, according to U.S. Geological Survey estimates. This table shows typical water consumption for common household uses, without conservation measures.

Type of daily use	Typical usage	Water-saving usage, devices
Shower	5-minute shower uses 10-25 gallons	take a shorter shower, use a low-flow showerhead
Tub bath	full tub uses 70 gallons	close drain before turning on water and fill tub only half full
Toilet flushing	each flush uses 3-7 gallons	use a low-flow water use toilet or consider an EPA recommended WaterSense labeled toilet, combining high performance and high efficiency
Brushing teeth	letting the tap run uses 2 gallons per minute; 1 gallon with new faucets	turn off tap while brushing to save water; use faucet aerators or flow restrictors
Washing hands	letting the tap run uses 2 gallons per minute; 1 gallon with new faucets	fill basin, using that basin to rinse can save water; faucet aerators or flow restrictors also save water
Shaving	letting the tap run uses 2 gallons per minute; 1 gallon with new faucets	turn off tap while shaving to save water
Dishwashing by hand	letting the tap run uses 20 gallons per sink full	install new kitchen faucets, which use about 2.2 gallons per minute; wash only full dishwasher loads, since the average dishwashers use 4 to 12 gallons (depending on efficiency) whether or not it's a full load
Washing machine	full cycle uses an estimated 41-50 gallons per load	use new energy-conserving models, which may use less than 28 gallons per load

Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency, epa.gov and WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, 866-987-7367; U.S. Department of Energy, energy.gov; U.S. Geological Survey in the U.S. Department of the Interior, ga.water.usgs.gov

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A message from...

**Assemblymember
Al Stirpe**

New Yorkers depend on fresh, clean water for drinking, agriculture, industry and recreation. Unfortunately, we often take a safe and plentiful water supply for granted.

With the constant threat of water pollution, droughts and widespread development, it is important that we protect and conserve our water resources now – or suffer the consequences later.

This brochure contains a number of conservation measures that can be easily done at home – whether you rent or own.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns, feel free to contact my office.

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Easy
Ways to
Conserve
Water at
Home

Saving you money
and protecting
our precious
water supply

1 Checking for water leaks

Faucets

If you have a leaking faucet, install a new washer or replace the faucet. A leaking faucet may waste an estimated 650 to 4,000 gallons of water a year.

Toilets

To find a leak, add food coloring to the toilet tank. After 15 minutes, if the colored water appears in the bowl's water, you have a leak. Flush immediately so coloring doesn't stain bowl. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons a day.

2 Running hot and cold water

To reduce the amount of water wasted while waiting for hot water, wrap your hot water pipes with insulating material. For a ready supply of cold water, keep a full bottle or jug in the refrigerator.

Do not leave the water running while brushing teeth or shaving. Use short bursts of water from the faucet or fill the sink once.

3 Taking showers

Depending on the water pressure used when showering, 2 to 5 gallons are used per minute. There are several ways to conserve water:

- ✓ Turn off the water while lathering and shampooing
- ✓ Limit your shower
- ✓ Install a low-flow water fixture

Each year, a low-flow showerhead and a faucet aerator save about 7,800 gallons of water in an average household and also save hot-water fuel costs.

4 Washing the car

Wash your car with water from a bucket. When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle. When it's raining lightly, let the rain "wash" the car for you. If you use a car wash, choose one that recycles water.

5 Watering the lawn

Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day. Early morning is best. Do not water on windy days. Check with your local county Cornell Cooperative Extension for advice on watering needs in your area. Using mulch keeps more moisture in the ground and cuts down on weed growth. Converting to a water-efficient landscape can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent. Raise the cutting height of the lawn mower. Longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation and inhibit weed growth.

6 Washing dishes

When purchasing a dishwasher, select a model with water- and energy-saving devices built into the machine. Run only when full. The same amount of water is used regardless of load size. When washing dishes in the sink, do not let the water run continuously. Instead, fill the sink with only the amount of water needed to wash the dishes and rinse them in small spurts.

7 Washing clothes

Front-loading machines use less water than top loaders. Save your laundry until you have enough for full capacity. Don't wash small or medium loads unless your washer has water level settings for such loads. Consider washing delicate items by hand. Unlike dishwashers, clothes washers don't require a minimum temperature for optimum cleaning, therefore you can also reduce energy costs by using cold or warm water for most laundry loads. Efficient spin-dry on new machines saves energy when drying.

8 Other ways to conserve

In the bathroom

If your toilet uses 5 gallons or more per flush, fill a plastic bottle with water and pebbles for weight. When inserted in the toilet tank, the bottle will permit less water to fill the tank. Do not use a brick because it may flake and clog tubes or valves.

Many local water utilities provide water audits and/or water-conservation kits. Call your local water company for more information.

Remember, the more water conserved today, the more there will be for the future. Together, we can help ensure clean and plentiful water resources for future generations.