

PLEASE CONSERVE WATER

WE DO!

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Tips that will save the most:

- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. **Saves 20 gallons** per day for every leak stopped.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. **Saves 500 to 800 gallons** per month.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. **Saves 300 to 800 gallons** per month.
- Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can **save up to 700 gallons** per month.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. **Saves 150 gallons** or more each time. At once a week, that's **more than 600 gallons** a month.
- Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month.
- Use a professional carwash instead of washing your cars at home. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month *plus protects the environment.*

In the bathroom:

- Put a plastic bottle or a plastic bag weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Displacing water in this manner allows you to use less water with each flush. **Saves 5 to 10 gallons** a day. That's **up to 300 gallons** a month, even more for large families. Better yet, for even greater savings, replace your water-guzzling five to seven gallon a flush toilet with a one and a half gallon, ultra-low flush model.
- If you're taking a shower, don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** a month.
- Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. **Saves 400 gallons** a month.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. **Saves three gallons** each day.
- Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor. **Saves three gallons** each day.

In the kitchen:

- If you wash dishes by hand--and that's the best way--don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run. **Saves 200 to 500 gallons** a month.
- When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed. **Saves 50 to 150 gallons** a month.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** a month.
- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. **Saves 50 to 150 gallons** a month.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan. **Saves 150 to 250 gallons** a month.
- Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage more (even better--compost!). **Saves 50 to 150 gallons** a month.

While Shopping:

(Information below from *Last Oasis*, by Sandra Postel, and *California Water Facts*, by the Water Education Foundation)

Water is an essential ingredient in most manufacturing operations. Especially for those 1 billion of us in the high-consumption class, cutting down on our purchases of material things--from clothes and shoes to paper and appliances--**conserves and protects water supplies as effectively as installing a low-flush toilet does.** As with so many natural resources, as long as prices in the marketplace fail to reflect full social and ecological costs, voluntary changes in consumption patterns will play an important role in the quest for sustainability.

- We rarely think about water when we see an automobile, for example, but producing a typical U.S. car requires more than 50 times its weight in water (39,090 gallons)! Choosing a fuel-efficient model will help--it takes 44 gallons of water to refine one gallon of crude oil and 1,700 gallons of water to produce a gallon of ethanol.
- A kilogram (2.2 lbs) of hamburger or steak produced by a typical California beef cattle operation, for instance, uses some 20,500 liters (5,400 gal.) of water.
- Producing 1 lb of bread requires 500 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (8 oz.) of chicken requires 330 gallons of water.
- Growing one cotton T-shirt requires 256 gallons of water (source: *The King of California*, by Arax and Wartzman)
- Producing 1 egg requires over 100 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (8 fl. oz.) of milk requires 48 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (2 oz.) of pasta requires 36 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (4.6 oz.) of oranges requires 14 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (4.3 oz.) of tomatoes requires 8 gallons of water.
- A typical American Thanksgiving dinner for six people requires over 30,000 gallons of water.