



# 750

## GALLONS OF WATER EACH MONTH

# Water & money saving guide

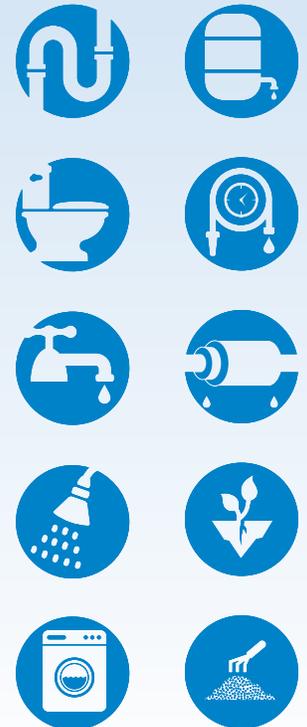
## Choose what works for you!

### No cost choices

- Wash full loads only – in washing machines and dishwashers.\*
- Take short showers – 5 minutes or less.\*
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Collect the cold water in a bucket for watering plants when waiting for the shower water to get hot.\*
- Regularly check for leaks.
- Install the free City of Bellingham Water Conservation Kit items.
- Let your lawn go gold or go dormant.\*
- Follow the Voluntary Outdoor Watering Schedule.
- Water 1-inch per week or less.
- Water your lawn in the mornings between 7-10 am to reduce evaporation loss.
- Mulch your plantings to retain moisture.
- Flush only when necessary.

### Low cost choices

- Fix your leaking faucets and toilets.
- Install a high-efficiency washing machine.\*
- Install high-efficiency toilets.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators on the kitchen and bathroom sinks.\*
- Install low-flow showerheads.\*
- Insulate hot water pipes to keep hot water hot.\*
- Consider installing a tankless hot water heater.\*
- Collect and store rainwater with a rain barrel or cistern.
- Install drip irrigation.
- Replace lawn with native and/or drought-tolerant plants.
- Use a watering hose timer and hose nozzle.



## GET YOUR FREE WATER CONSERVATION KIT!

Visit City Hall or Public Works Operations

(360) 778-7700 | [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org)

*\*These can save you energy, too!*



# Saving water: indoors

## Reduce shower time

A typical eight-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons, and a full bath tub requires about 70 gallons of water. Energy use for the average shower is about 3 kWh. Reducing your shower time by three minutes could save you money in water and energy costs and 3,000 gallons of water annually.



**Non-conserving home**  
11.5 gallons daily



**Conserving home**  
8.8 gallons daily

**Save**  
2.7 gal  
daily

## Install efficient toilets

New and improved WaterSense-labeled models use less than 1.28 gallons per flush (at least 60% less than their older, less efficient counterparts).



**Non-conserving home**  
18.5 gallons daily

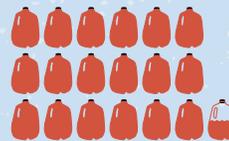


**Conserving home**  
8.2 gallons daily

**Save**  
10.3 gal  
daily

## Buy a high-efficiency washer

The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. High-efficiency washing machines use less than 28 gallons of water per load. Energy Star models will help you save energy too!



**Non-conserving home**  
18.5 gallons daily



**Conserving home**  
10 gallons daily

**Save**  
8.5 gal  
daily

## Find and fix leaks

On average, leaks account for nearly 11,000 gallons of water wasted per home, per year—enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. Look, listen and test for leaks. Is the faucet dripping? Is the toilet hissing? If it does not stop, it needs to be fixed. Continue to observe fixtures for leaks!

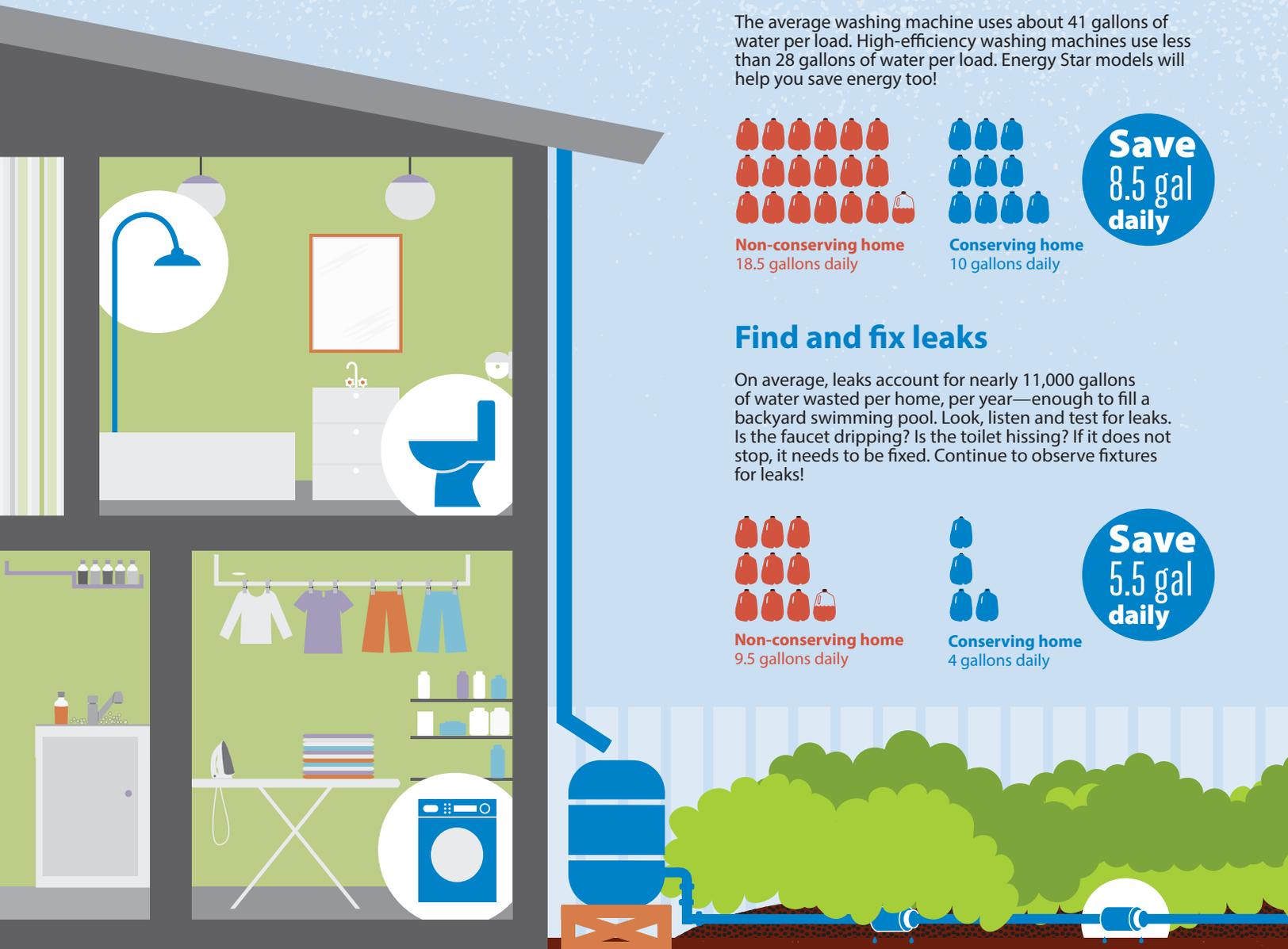


**Non-conserving home**  
9.5 gallons daily



**Conserving home**  
4 gallons daily

**Save**  
5.5 gal  
daily



**SAVE OUR WATER. SAVE YOUR MONEY.**

# and out



## Water timer and hose nozzle

Installing a water timer on the hose prevents overwatering, water waste, and a costly water bill. An automatic shutoff nozzle may save an estimated 50% or more when using a garden hose to wash a vehicle or hand-water a lawn or landscape.



## Rainwater harvesting

Using rain barrels and/or cisterns to collect water from your roof for outdoor use saves money on your metered water bill, conserves drinking water and reduces stormwater runoff. Systems can range from 55-gallon rain barrels to meet a portion of outdoor watering needs and 2,500 gallon or larger tanks to meet all indoor and outdoor water needs.



## Drip irrigation

The most efficient method of irrigating is drip irrigation. Drip systems are typically 90% efficient or higher. Efficient sprinkler systems are around 75-85% efficient. The ease of installation, design and low cost make it an ideal watering system and can help reduce disease problems in the yard and garden.



## Landscaping with native and/or drought tolerant plants

Northwest native plants provide many benefits. Once established, they are drought resistant, easy to care for, and attractive. They need less water, provide food and shelter for wildlife, and prevent slides and erosion. They have adapted over thousands of years to Northwest weather, soil, and topography.

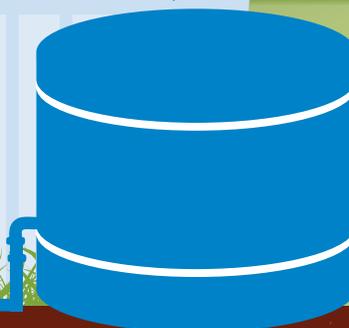
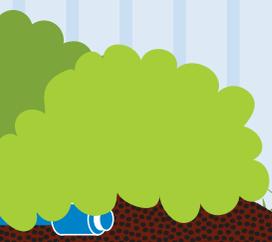
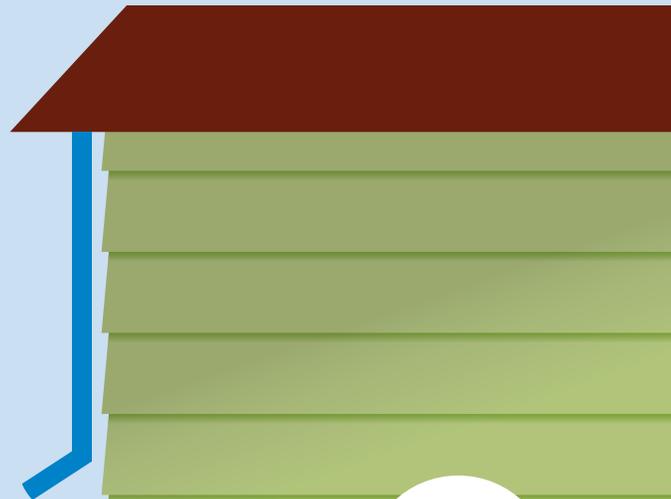


## Mulch

Mulch holds water, moderates soil temperature, and limits weed growth.

## Let your green lawn go gold in summer.

A typical American suburban lawn soaks up 10,000 gallons of supplemental water per year. About 80-90% of outdoor residential water use goes to watering plants, lawns, and gardens.



# Additional ways to save

## Indoor resources

- **WaterSense**  
The City is an EPA WaterSense partner. An easy way to identify water-efficient products is to look for the WaterSense label on toilets, faucets, and showerheads. These products use less water, perform well, and help save money. [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)
- **MaP – Maximum Performance**  
MaP is a free report that provides flushing performance scores for more than 2,200 tank-type toilets and is updated monthly. The MaP rating system has been endorsed by consumer groups, manufacturers, retailers, architects, and WaterSense. If you want a toilet that performs well, you want a MaP-tested toilet. [www.map-testing.com](http://www.map-testing.com)
- **Consumer Reports – Greener Choices**  
This information clearinghouse has green ratings of products and appliances, including washing machines and dishwashers. [www.greenerchoices.org](http://www.greenerchoices.org)
- **Energy Star**  
When buying water-related household appliances look for ones that have the Energy Star rating. High efficiency fixtures that use hot water can save you money on your energy bill too with an Energy Star rating. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

## Rebates

- **Community Energy Challenge**  
The City has partnered with the Opportunity Council to offer City of Bellingham single-family residential water customers, who have received an energy assessment through the CEC, a rebate towards the installation of a qualifying water conservation measure. Verification of participation is required prior to obtaining a rebate application. [www.communityenergychallenge.org](http://www.communityenergychallenge.org)
- **Puget Sound Energy**  
Consult this website for information about Puget Sound Energy's financial incentives for water and energy efficient appliances. [www.pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/forhomes/pages/rebates-and-offers.aspx](http://www.pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/forhomes/pages/rebates-and-offers.aspx)
- **The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency**  
The U.S. Department of Energy provides a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

## Outdoor resources

- **Rainwater Harvesting**  
The City supports the design and installation of active and passive rainwater harvesting systems. For more information and resources, see the City's website. [www.cob.org/services/environment/conservation/rainwater-harvesting.aspx](http://www.cob.org/services/environment/conservation/rainwater-harvesting.aspx)
- **Irrigation Tutorials**  
Jess Stryker has prepared a series of detailed tutorials to instruct readers on all aspects of irrigation – including the use of pumps and drip irrigation guidelines. [www.irrigationtutorials.com](http://www.irrigationtutorials.com)
- **Irrigation Water Management Society**  
The Irrigation Water Management Society is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the wise and efficient use of water in golf, landscape, and agriculture. Visit the website to calculate how much to irrigate your landscape based on the types of plantings and irrigation system you have. [www.iwms.org/seattle\\_area.asp](http://www.iwms.org/seattle_area.asp)
- **Washington Native Plant Society**  
The Society provides a great source for native plant information and landscaping lists for western Washington. [www.wnps.org/index.html](http://www.wnps.org/index.html)

