

# RESIDENTIAL Water Use

## AN INDOOR GUIDE



Bellingham's water comes from high up on Mt. Baker's Deming Glacier. After travelling down the middle fork of the Nooksack River, it eventually flows into Lake Whatcom where it enters Bellingham's water supply via the Water Treatment Plant.



Despite our reputation for living in the rainy Northwest, we can experience drought conditions, especially in years with a mild winter or low snowpack. Conserving water, even in our community, is important during these times, and as demand grows and the cost to supply water to customers increases.

101  
GALLONS

One  
Person

One Day

*Almost 70% of a person's water use is for indoor purposes such as flushing the toilet, doing laundry and taking a shower.*

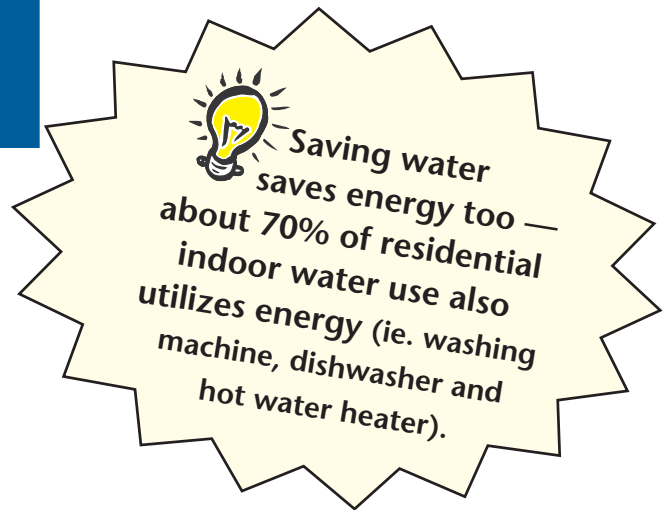
*The remaining 30% is for outdoor uses.*

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



# COMPARING WATER USE IN THE AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

*Simply replacing water-guzzling fixtures with water-efficient ones can reduce home water consumption by up to 27 gallons per person per day.*

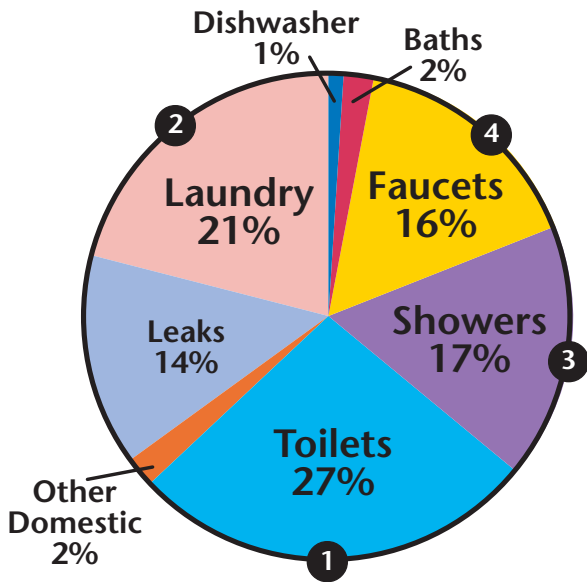


## Largest In-Home Users of Water

### Non-conserving Home

Largest water consumers **prior to** installation of water-efficient fixtures:

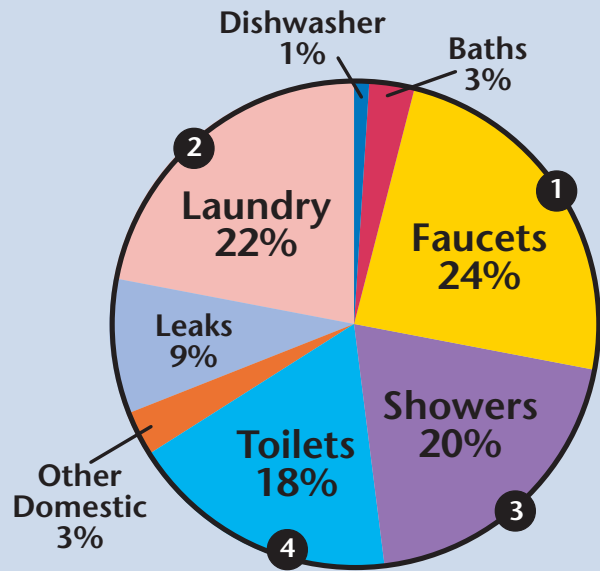
- 1 Toilets
- 2 Laundry
- 3 Showers
- 4 Faucets



### Conserving Home

Largest water consumers **after** installation of water-efficient fixtures:

- 1 Faucets
- 2 Laundry
- 3 Showers
- 4 Toilets



*It is possible to reduce residential water use by as much as 35%!*

## FREE Water Conservation Kit

- Kit includes:
- Toilet Leak Detection Tablets
  - Faucet Aerators (2)
  - Low-flow Showerhead

**The #1 water-saving device is YOU!**

Water saved: At least 30 gals/day  
1-2 gals/day  
3 gals/shower

For your FREE Kit, visit City Hall (Finance Dept), Public Works Operations or call 360-778-7700.



# SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE



## No Cost

1. Flush only when necessary.
2. Wash full loads only – both washing machines & dishwashers.
3. Take shorter showers – 5 minutes or less.
4. Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
5. Install the FREE City of Bellingham Water Conservation Kit items.
6. Regularly check for leaks.

## Low Cost

1. Fix leaks.
2. Install water-efficient appliances like a low-flow toilet or front load washer. Advances in technology have made water-saving appliances more affordable and more widely available.
3. Insulate hot water pipes to keep hot water hot.
4. Consider installing a tankless hot water heater.

## Checking for Leaks

### *Nip that drip!*

Leaks commonly found in homes include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves; most are easily repairable with inexpensive parts from your local hardware store. Fixing the biggest water wasters can save more than 10% on your water bill.



### *Look, listen and test for leaks*

Toilet leaks often go unnoticed, potentially wasting up to 200 gallons per day! To identify a toilet leak, place a leak detection tablet or food coloring in the toilet tank and wait ten minutes. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak and likely need to replace the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank.

Leaks can also be detected by checking for changes in your meter after a period of no water use in your home. If your meter reading changes after at least 30 minutes of no water use, then you have a leak. Check around your home looking underneath fixtures, in a basement or crawl space, or around the exterior of the house for signs of a leak. For further assistance, contact a plumber or Public Works.



## Every Drop Counts!

Check out these online resources for tips, information and listings of product-tested appliances.



[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



[www.GreenerChoices.org](http://www.GreenerChoices.org)



[www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)