

Indoor Water Use Tips

Estimates vary, but the average person in the United States uses as much as 100 gallons of water per day for cooking, washing, flushing and outdoor watering! Save water (and energy) by using WaterSense labeled products (www.epa.gov/watersense/) in your home and business and by adjusting your daily water use behavior.

BATHROOM

The bathroom is the largest consumer of indoor water. The toilet alone can use 27 percent of household water! Almost every activity or daily routine that happens in the home bathroom uses a large quantity of water. See how much you can reduce your water use with these tips:

Displace water in the toilet tank by filling a plastic quart bottle with enough rock and water to make it sink. Using bricks is not recommended, because bricks can crumble and clog plumbing. Place the bottle in the tank where it won't interfere with the internal plumbing. Better yet, replace your older, inefficient toilet(s) with a WaterSense labeled model that combines high efficiency with high performance (www.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/toilets.html).

***Savings: 3-25 gallons per person/day**

When you run water to warm it up before stepping into the shower, put a bucket under the tap. Use the captured water to water your plants.

Check the rate at which your showerhead releases water. If a one-gallon bucket is filled in 20 seconds or less, you should install a water-saving showerhead, which can provide water at the same water pressure but use less water overall. Some cost as little as ten dollars and take less than ten minutes to install. You can obtain a low-flow showerhead for free from the City of Bellingham as part of a Water Conservation Kit.

***Savings: 2-6 gallons/minute**



Use pause switches or turn water off while soaping up. Lather body and wash hair while water is paused, then rinse all at once.

***Savings: 2-6 gallons/minute**



Install water-saving faucet aerators, which mix air with the water to keep the pressure high while using less water. Faucet aerators are cheap and easy to install yourself. You can obtain two faucet aerators for free from the City of Bellingham as part of a Water Conservation Kit.

***Savings: 5 gallons/day**

Don't let the water run continuously while you're brushing your teeth or shaving.

***Savings: 3 gallons/minute**



The City of Bellingham offers **FREE Water Conservation Kits** to its water customers. The free kits contain a low-flow showerhead, low-flow faucet aerators for the bathroom and kitchen, and toilet leak detection tablets. Water Conservation Kits can be obtained at the City of Bellingham Finance Department located at City Hall (210 Lottie Street). For more water conservation questions, contact City of Bellingham Public Works Department (360-778-7700) or email waterconservation@cob.org.

KITCHEN

For maximum efficiency, run the dishwasher only when it's full. Choose shorter wash cycles. When you are in the market for a new dishwasher, choose an ENERGY STAR qualified model that uses less water and energy. (<http://www.energystar.gov/>)

*Savings: 9-33 gallons per load

Instead of running water over frozen foods, thaw foods in refrigerator ahead of time or in the microwave.

*Savings: 3 gallons/minute

Rather than letting the water run while washing dishes by hand, use one side of the sink for soapy wash water and partially fill the side with rinse water. If you don't have a two-sided sink, use a big pot or bowl for rinsing.

*Savings: 3 gallons/minute



LAUNDRY

Run clothes washing machines on shorter cycles at minimal water levels and only with full loads.

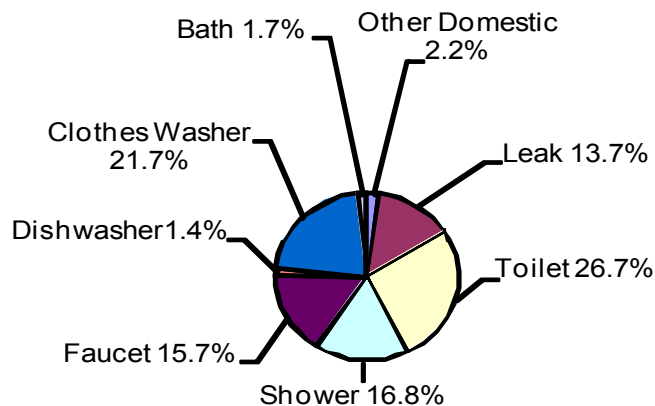
*Savings: 33 gallons/load

Replace your old clothes washer. A clothes washer is likely the second largest water user in your home. If your clothes washer is an older top loading machine, consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer. Most ENERGY STAR washers use 35 to 50 percent less water and 50 percent less energy per load. To save more water, look for a clothes washer with a low water factor. The lower the water factor, the less water the machine uses.

*Savings: 5-30 gallons/load



INDOOR WATER USE PER CAPITA



For an average, non-conserving home, the largest residential water usage comes from the:

- toilet
- clothes washer
- shower

New technologies allow for water savings, reduced energy use *and* improved performance. Focusing on replacing inefficient fixtures with low-flow devices will significantly decrease your daily water consumption and likely save you money on utility bills. Be sure to check out rebate opportunities available from various agencies!