

# WATER CONSERVATION



## 5 Ways to Save Water and Save Money

### 1. Reduce outdoor watering.

More than 50% of residential water use is used for outdoor watering. Experts note that one can water just once per week in DFW to ensure a green and healthy landscape. Water between 10 pm and 6 am to allow water to seep deeply into plant roots and avoid the sun's evaporation. Check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and consider using native plants when gardening as they need less water.

### 2. Check toilets to verify they are working properly.

Make sure the water level is not too high, the fill valve is working properly, and the flapper is not leaking. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day.

Newer toilets use only 1.28 gallons per flush where older toilets can use at least three times as much water. Consider replacing your toilet with a modern, water-efficient model.

### 3. When doing laundry or dishes - always wash with full loads.

Conventional washing machines built before 2011 typically use about 40 gallons per load; water-efficient washers may use as little as 15 gallons per load. Wash full loads to maximize efficient water use.

Likewise, only wash full loads of dishes to use water efficiently. If washing dishes by hand, fill the sink or a tub with water rather than running the tap to rinse.

### 4. Find and fix any leaky faucets.

A leaky faucet can leak 60 drops per minute or 192 gallons per month. Fix leaky faucets. Consider installing an aerator to cut down on the amount of water, but not the pressure per minute, that comes out of your tap.

### 5. Be water wise when bathing.

Instead of letting the water run while lathering hands, shaving, or brushing teeth, turn off the water while getting ready for the day.

Reducing a 10-minute shower to 5 minutes saves 12.5 gallons of water if your showerhead has a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm). Consider installing a low flow showerhead which may use up to half the amount per minute than an older model (1.5 gpm vs. up to 3.5 gpm).

*Submitted by Clean Water Fund, a c3 nonprofit water conservation organization.*