



Inventory for Conserving Water in Your Home

Please answer the following questions to help you assess the water use in your home or apartment.

1. How many showers and baths are taken in your household per day?
2. How many times is the toilet flushed?
3. Do you have a low flow showerhead?
4. Do you have a standard or low flow toilet?
5. How many times each day does each household member use faucets to shave, brush teeth, wash hands and face?
6. How many minutes does the water run during each wash?
7. If you have a dishwasher, how many times is it used each week?
8. How many loads of laundry are done by members of your household each week?
9. How many times is your lawn watered each week?
10. How many minutes is the lawn watered per watering?
11. Water is also used outdoors to wash cars, fill pools, rinse outdoor furniture and clean equipment. Estimate the average number of minutes water is used each week outdoors for purposes other than watering.
12. Do you take steps to reduce the amount of pollutants that flow into the stormwater drains?

See below ideas for saving water and keeping it clean.

Free or nearly free ideas to protect and conserve water

1. Think twice before dumping anything into a household or stormwater drain. This includes fertilizers and pesticides put on lawns. Storm water is not treated before returning to our rivers and streams. Everything that goes down a drain eventually ends up in somebody's water source.

2. Learn about watersheds and how to care for yours. —

http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/environmental_education/support_files/poster.html

3. Learn about groundwater and karst systems. (Hint: Kentucky has one of the largest karst systems in the world!) <http://www.karstconservancy.org/karst/what-is-karst.asp>



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4. Go to this website to see **100** ways to conserve water
<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100ways/index.shtml>

A few are listed below.

5. Use appliances that use water (such as clothes or dishwashers) only when they are full.
6. Reuse “gray water” from such activities as bathing, washing vegetables, hand washing etc. to water plants both indoors and out.
7. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator to avoid running water until it is cold.
6. Mulch plants with old newspapers and grass cuttings to retain water.
7. Check all faucets, indoors and out, for leaks or drips.
8. Make sure family members turn water faucets completely off each time they are used.
9. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
10. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
11. Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
12. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption and can pollute water sources. Apply the minimum needed.
13. Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
14. Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
15. If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.
16. Hold a family meeting to come up with ideas to save water and keep it cleaner. Make a list and review it occasionally.



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Ideas under \$25 to protect and conserve water

1. Purchase and install a low flow showerhead
2. Use drip hoses to water whenever possible.
3. Plant water wise plants to reduce water use and maintenance. <http://www.h2ouse.org>
4. Install aerators in all your faucets.

Ideas over \$25 to protect and conserve water

1. Replace toilets (the largest water user in most homes) with a new low flow variety. <http://www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm>
2. Replace old clothes washers (another high water use appliance) with energy star, low water usage varieties. http://www.energystar.gov/indexcfm?c=clotheswash.pr_front_top
3. Build a rain garden to help attract beneficial insects and to treat stormwater runoff from hard surfaces like roofs and paved surfaces. <http://www.bluegrassraingardenalliance.org/>
4. Attach the downspout of your gutter to a rain barrel to conserve water. Use this natural water to water shrubs and gardens. <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/rainbarrel.html>
5. Use pavers (which allow water to percolate into the ground) to replace sidewalks and patios.
6. Plant or replant as much of your lawn as possible with trees and shrubs that require less water. http://www.publicsector.org/local_agenda_21and_you/InTheGarden/InTheGarden2%20.html
7. Install an instant hot water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce energy costs for your household.