

# Practical Tips to Conserve Water\*\*

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1. **Wash hands and brush teeth with less water.** Wet the hands or the brush, and then turn off the faucet. Especially with the abundance of liquid soaps, you don't need the water running until you need to rinse the soap off. You could save hundreds of gallons a month on both of these.
2. **Shorter showers.** Sometimes we turn the water on, take our time getting in, or even hang out to wake ourselves up. A little bit of motivation can get us through the shower process much more efficiently.
3. **Don't waste bath water.** It's common for people to turn on the bath water, wait until it gets to the desired temperature, and then close the drain. But, if you close the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as it fills; you're accomplishing the same goal-a favorable temperature.
4. **Wash clothes and dishes only when the machines are full.** Buying newer water efficient machines are a great step (especially those with load-size adjustments), but some families are fine running these machines when they're not completely full. This accounts for additional runs that aren't needed which use hundreds of gallons of water.
5. **Soak dirty pots and pans.** Hot water is a miracle for removing hard food on our cookware, but soaking the pots and pans with a little grease cutting soap works a lot better than running the low pressure hot water on it. And it saves plenty of water too.
6. **Use mulch around your house.** Mulch is a fantastic (and cheap) way to hold moisture into your trees and bushes, and actually lessens the need to water them.
7. **Watch for leaking toilets.** Toilets are notorious for wasted water. In time the flapper deteriorates inside the toilet. Add food coloring to the toilet tank and wait a few minutes. If color appears in the toilet without flushing, replace flapper valve.

8. **Flush only when necessary.** Every flush you eliminate saves water. Install a water-efficient toilet. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. And never flush out of date medicines down the toilet.
9. **Wash the car as efficiently as possible.** Fill a soapy bucket and you don't need to hose the car. You'll need the hose to rinse off the soap, but being as short with the hose as possible will help save water.
10. **Aerate your lawn.** Let your grass enjoy the rain more easily and often. You'll see a healthier lawn that needs less sprinklers and manual watering.
11. **Share these tips with everyone you know.**

\*\*Tips provided from the EPA