

How to estimate your daily water consumption

Showers: Multiply the number of showers taken each day by members of your household by the average number of minutes spent in the shower; then multiply the result by 4 gallons per minute to determine water used for household showers each day.

Baths: Multiply the number of baths taken each day by 40 gallons to determine daily water used for baths.

Toilets: Multiply the number of people in your household by four flushes; then multiply the result times 5 gallons per flush to determine the amount of water used daily in your household toilets.

Faucets: Total the number of times household members use faucets to shave, brush teeth, and wash hands or faces. Multiply that number by the average minutes used; then multiply the result times 3 gallons per minute for the number of gallons used daily through faucets. Dripping faucets in the wintertime can use about 1 gallon of water every 10 to 15 minutes per faucet. Multiplying this number by the minutes left on over a month can lead to an extra 1 to 6 thousand gallons of water on your bill.

Laundry: Multiply the number of loads of laundry washed each week times 55 gallons to determine gallons used per week. Divide this number by 7 to determine daily consumption of water for laundry.

Dishwasher: Multiply the number of times the dishwasher is used each week by 15 gallons per load for the amount of water used weekly by the dishwasher. Divide that amount by 7 for daily consumption.

Hand washing dishes: Multiply the number of times dishes are washed by hand each day multiply that by 3 gallons per minute; then multiply the result by the average number of minutes the water runs to determine daily water consumption for hand washing dishes.

Total the gallons used during each of these activities for your estimated daily indoor consumption.