

Ways to lower your water consumption

Turn the water off when brushing teeth or shaving.

Turn off faucets tightly after each use.

Throw tissues and other trash into the wastebasket, not the toilet. Each flush uses five to seven gallons of water.

If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.

When running a bath, plug the tub before turning on the water, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in a bowl of water instead.

Use the garbage disposal once rather than several times. It requires many gallons of water to operate the disposal properly.

Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when you have a full load.

Place water-saving aerators on all your faucets and install a low-flow shower head.

Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save up to 140 gallons a week.

Use energy saving settings on appliances such as the dishwasher, washing machine and hot water heater.

Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. Set a timer to remind you when to stop watering.

Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case it malfunctions or you get unexpected rain.

When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs water the most.

Check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.