

110 Water Saving Tips

1. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with wash water and other with rinse water.
2. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
3. Run your clothes washer only when full. You can save up to 500 gallons a month.
4. Use shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
5. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
6. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead.
7. Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
8. For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.
9. Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools to help you discover leaks.
10. Water your lawn and garden in the evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
11. Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
12. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
13. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
14. If your shower fills a 1 gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, change to a water-efficient model.
15. Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
16. If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
17. Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
18. If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.
19. Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.
20. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments.
21. Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
22. Upgrade toilets with water efficient models or put a brick or two in the tank. You only need enough water to flush.
23. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture.
24. When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
25. Use sprinklers for large areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
26. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
27. When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
28. Permeable walkways or patios provide space that doesn't need to be watered and can add value to your property.
29. Collect water from your roof to water your garden.
30. Use one glass for your drinking water each day to cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
31. Avoid following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture 2 -3 inches below the surface before watering.
32. Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.
33. Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
34. Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.
35. Reduce the lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
36. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
37. Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
38. Check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep sprinkler heads in good shape.
39. Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
40. Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
41. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
42. Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could also prevent damage to your home.
43. To decrease water being wasted on sloping lawns, water for five minutes and then repeat two to three times.
44. Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under watering others.
45. Use a layer of organic material on the surface of planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.
46. Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and drought tolerant landscape.
47. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air.
48. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
49. Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water or repeated filling.
50. Fill toys like water pistols from a bucket rather than the faucet.
51. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
52. Use a rain gauge, or empty tuna can, to track rainfall on your lawn. Then reduce your watering accordingly.
53. Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation.
54. Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case it malfunctions or you get an unexpected rain.
55. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop.

Information compiled and provided courtesy of
Endangered Species, 2080 Spring Garden Rd, New Bern, NC 28562 (252) 637-6641

Specializing in organic vegetables, raised bed gardens, rain barrels, and rain barrel installations.

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56. If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
57. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
58. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color.
59. Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up.
60. With a grease pencil mark your pool water level of at the skimmer. Check 24 hours later to see if you have a leak.
61. If your dishwasher is less than 10 years old, reduce rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly.
62. If installing a lawn, select a turf mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
63. When the kids want to cool off, use a kiddie pool or the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
64. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
65. Bathe your young children together.
66. Consult your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.
67. Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
68. Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
69. Wash your car on the lawn, and use your rain water if possible. You will be watering your lawn at the same time.
70. Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
71. Direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems toward water-loving plants for automatic water savings.
72. Make suggestions to your employer about ways to save water and money at work.
73. Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.
74. Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
75. Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
76. Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals.
77. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy and helps your clothes keep their colors.
78. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. to reduces evaporation.
79. Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
80. Let your lawn go dormant in the summer. Dormant grass needs to be watered every 3 weeks or less if it rains.
81. Plant with finished compost to add water-holding and nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil.
82. Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops can evaporate before they hit the ground.
83. Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
84. Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
85. Re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.
86. Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.
87. Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
88. Wash your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
89. When buying a new clothes washer, check resource savings. Some models can save up to 20 gallons per load.
90. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.
91. Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
92. Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
93. When you give your pet fresh water, use the old water it to water your trees or shrubs.
94. If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, drop them in a house plant.
95. To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
96. While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
97. When back-flushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
98. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, put ice cubes under the dirt to give your plants to eliminate overflow.
99. When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, dump it on a plant.
100. Re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line.
101. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.
102. Use toilets twice and flush once.
103. When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.
104. Kettles should be filled with only enough water for your needs.
105. Run water through your coffee maker to heat up a cup of tea.
106. Only heat 1/3 the water needed for a pitcher of ice tea. Add tap water to the strong tea base to fill.
107. At least once a week take a sponge bath.
108. Make sure your dishwasher is full before running. Save up to 500 gallons of water per month.
109. Established trees and shrubs rarely need any watering other than what nature supplies.
110. Wipe out greasy dishes with a cloth before washing to avoid water changes.

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