

10 WATER-SAVING TIPS

INDOORS

- 1** Replace older toilets with a WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilet. Older toilets can use 4 times more water per flush.
- 2** Regularly check for & repair leaks. Even small leaks can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons of water a month. Many leaks can be fixed by a do-it-yourself plumber, and repair parts are relatively inexpensive to purchase.
- 3** Wash only full loads. The average American household uses about 18% of its water running the clothes and dish washers.
- 4** Let your dishwasher do the work. An average dishwasher uses about 10 gallons per load. Running the average faucet for just four minutes uses the same amount of water.
- 5** Check your toilet for leaks at least once per year by using a dye tablet or 10 drops of food coloring. Toilet leaks are very common, and leaky toilets can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons of water a month. Get more info at www.regionalh2o.org/toilet.
- 6** Install a high efficiency showerhead, and save about 1 gallon per minute.
- 7** Install an aerator on your bathroom or kitchen faucet and save about 1 gallon per minute. An aerator puts air into the water stream, so you get the same feeling of pressure, but you use less water.
- 8** Turn the faucet on only to rinse when brushing your teeth, washing your hands, or shaving. You will save up to 2.5 gallons a minute.
- 9** Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. In the event of a leak, knowing how to shut off the water to your house could save you water and prevent damage to your home.
- 10** Select an Energy Star-approved clothes washer next time you purchase a new washer. They use 15-20 less gallons of water per load, and you will see savings on your energy costs too.

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OUTDOORS

- 1** Adjust your sprinklers so that they're watering your lawn and garden, and not the street or sidewalk.
- 2** Water early in the morning (before 10 a.m.) or later in the evening (after 6 p.m.) when temperatures are cooler and evaporation is minimized.
- 3** Set it, but don't forget it! Whether you have a manual or automatic system, be sure to adjust your watering schedule. As the weather changes, so will your landscape's watering needs.
- 4** Water established lawns about 1 inch per week (a bit more during hot, dry weather). Find out how much to water each week with the Weekly Watering Number at www.regionalh2o.org/wwn.
- 5** Inspect your overall irrigation system for leaks, broken lines, or blockage in the lines. A well maintained system will save you money, water, and time.
- 6** Consider replacing some grass area with low water use plants and ornamental grasses. They are easier to maintain than grass, look beautiful, and require far less water.
- 7** Group plants with like watering needs. Creating "watering zones" in your garden will allow you to give each plant the water it requires – not too much or too little.
- 8** Add a shut-off nozzle to your garden hose and save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
- 9** Adjust your mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn provides shade to the roots and helps retain soil moisture, so your lawn requires less water.
- 10** Water in several short sessions each day that you water rather than one long session to allow for better absorption and to prevent run-off.

The Regional Water Providers Consortium provides leadership in the planning, management, stewardship, and resiliency of drinking water in the Portland, OR metropolitan region.



Get more information and resources at
www.regionalh2o.org