



## Water Conservation Tips

### Indoor Conservation Tips

- Turn water off while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are fully loaded and at off-peak hours (10pm – 6 am and 9 am- 4 pm).
- When washing dishes by hand, use two basins-one for washing and one for rinsing rather than letting the water run.
- Defrost frozen foods in refrigerator or microwave-instead of running water over them.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets- this adds up to 20 gallons per day to your consumption.
- Shorten showers. Take showers instead of baths (bathtubs hold up to 50 gallons of water –typically showers use less than 20 gallons).
- The longer the shower, the larger the bill. Reduce your water costs by taking shorter showers and installing a water efficient showerhead. It all adds up – to big savings.
- Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or for cleaning around your home.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year. This adds to the cost of water and sewer utilities and adds to your water bill.
- Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water and use this to water plants. The same technique can be used when washing dishes or vegetables in the sink.

- In the shower, turn water on to get wet; turn off to lather up; then turn back on to rinse off. Repeat when washing your hair.
- Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Set the water level for the size of load you are using.
- Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, abandoned free-flowing wells, etc.) to the property owner, local authorities or your water management district.
- Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts. You can make a difference.

## Water Statistics

- Majority of the water used in an average home is in the bathroom.
- The average older model toilet uses 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush. The new ultra low flush uses 1.6 gallons.
- Fix leaks-a slow drip can add up to 20 gallons per day to your consumption.
- Remember wasted water is raising your water and sewer bill.

## **When you save water-you save MONEY!!!**

**For more conservation tips view the City Water Quality Report or call the TACOMA WATER UTILITY water conservation hotline at 253-502-8723, or visit [www.tacomawater.com](http://www.tacomawater.com)**