

**How often do you stop to think about the water you use?**



*Your Guide to Saving Water and Money*

Individually, these tips may not seem like a “big deal” – while all together, they may seem overwhelming. But just imagine what a difference we can make, if we all make it a habit to do what we can, whenever we can to conserve our precious supply of water. For more tips, information and informative water conservation videos you can visit:

[www.faypwc.com](http://www.faypwc.com)

**PWC encourages you to stop ...think ... conserve water.**



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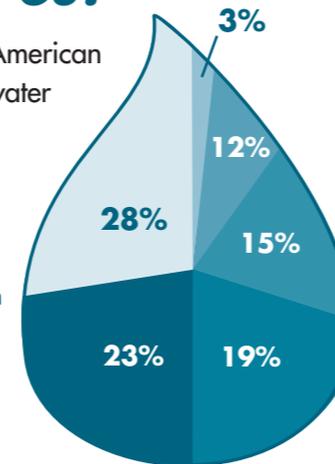
### General

- ◆ Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
- ◆ Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water (and avoid damage to your home) if a pipe were to burst.
- ◆ If you're shopping for a new appliance, consider the new water-saving models.
- ◆ If you're installing a new toilet, choose a low-volume type.
- ◆ Consider your own habits! Chances are, you can find little things you do that use water unnecessarily.

### Where Does Your Water Go?

On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water every day.

- 28% Flushed
- 23% Laundry
- 19% Shower/bath
- 15% Faucets
- 12% Leaks
- 3% Dishwasher



### Outdoors

- ◆ Use a bucket to wash cars and install a shut-off valve on hoses, so you can turn the water on only when needed to rinse.
- ◆ Clean your driveway or sidewalk with a broom, instead of hosing it down.
- ◆ If you have a pool, get a cover for it. It will reduce evaporation by 90%.

### Watering

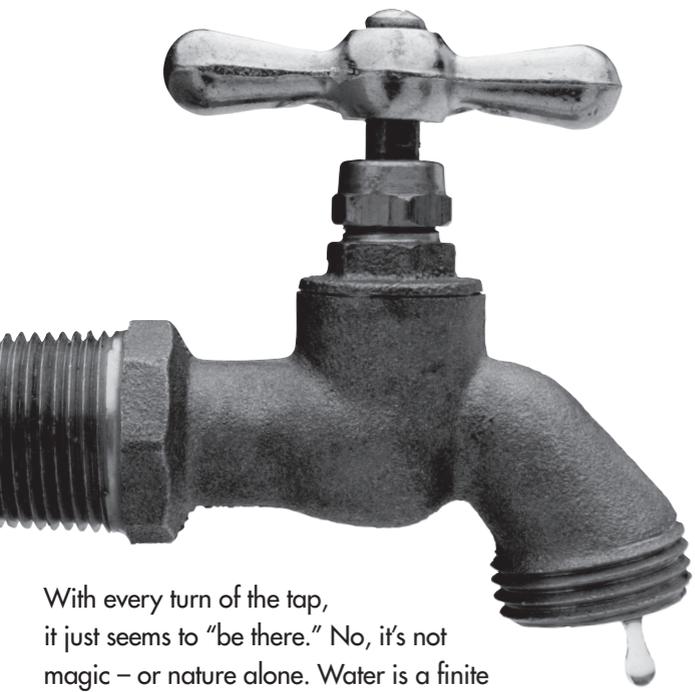
- ◆ Water lawns and gardens when it's most efficient – early morning or evening – not during the hottest hours of the day, when water will evaporate quickly. And, avoid watering when it's very windy.
- ◆ Only water when your lawn needs it! A good way to tell is by walking on your lawn. If you leave footprints, you need to water. You can also use a moisture indicator to let you know when you need to water.
- ◆ Position sprinklers so they're only watering lawns and gardens – not sidewalks, driveways or gutters.



- ◆ Adjust automatic irrigation systems to follow PWC's current outdoor watering schedule.  
Visit: [www.faypwc.com](http://www.faypwc.com) for current schedule
- ◆ Make sure you water long enough to allow water to soak down to the roots where it will do more good. A light sprinkling may evaporate quickly. But don't over-water.
- ◆ Install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers.
- ◆ When watering steep slopes, use a soaker hose to help prevent wasteful runoff.
- ◆ Consider installing drip irrigation for individual bushes, trees, flowers, and garden areas. This method gets water slowly and directly to the plant roots where it's needed most.

### Waterwise Planting and Gardening

- ◆ Plant low-water-use grasses (such as Centipede or Bermuda).
- ◆ Use mulch around trees and plants to keep moisture in.
- ◆ Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and use ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
- ◆ Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.



With every turn of the tap, it just seems to “be there.” No, it’s not magic – or nature alone. Water is a finite resource. The supply we have on earth now is all we’ll ever have. It just gets “recycled” by nature. What’s more, before it’s delivered to your home or business, the water PWC takes from natural sources undergoes a complex process to make it clean and safe to drink.

Now think about this. There are many more people using the same amount of water than in decades past. And, during periods of low rainfall, nature’s “recycling process” slows down. So it’s not far-fetched to contemplate what some communities in this country have already discovered – one day there may be no water at your tap.

Conserving water does make a difference in our supply of this precious resource. And, conservation will also save you money. (You pay the same for water, whether it’s providing a thirst-quenching drink, or simply running down the drain as you stand there brushing your teeth.)

Following are many ways you can conserve – room to room, indoors and out.

## In the Bathroom

- ◆ Don’t leave the water running while you shave or brush your teeth.
- ◆ Use a glass of water to rinse. For shaving, put a little water in the sink to rinse your razor. It works just as well as running water.

### Shower or Bath?

Showers don’t necessarily use less water than baths. And it’s probably a matter of personal preference, so consider this. A short shower uses less than a full tub, but a partially filled tub uses a lot less than a long shower. Showers pour out about 3-8 gallons of water a minute. To conserve, cut down on shower time, and don’t run the water at full blast. When running tub water, use the stopper right away, even before the water is hot, and adjust water temperature afterwards.

- ◆ Install water saving devices, including low-flow showerheads or flow restrictors and faucet aerators. This can save thousands of gallons of water a year. Hardware and home improvement stores carry these easy-to-install devices.
- ◆ Insulate your water heater and all hot water pipes. You won’t have to run the water as long before it gets hot!
- ◆ Your toilet’s not a wastebasket – don’t throw garbage in and flush it down.
- ◆ To cut down on water used for flushing toilets (about 4 gallons per flush), if your toilet isn’t low flow fill a plastic bottle with water (to weight it down) and put in the tank. Most toilets work just as well with less water, but make sure you don’t displace so much water that you have to double flush. Also, place the bottle where it won’t interfere with the flushing mechanism. (You may want to use two smaller bottles.)
- ◆ Teach children to turn faucets off tightly (this goes for the kitchen and outdoor as well).
- ◆ Check for – and fix – leaks in faucets and toilets. (See section on leaks.)

## Kitchen and Laundry

- ◆ Run full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine. Be sure to set your washing machine to the size of the load.
- ◆ Scrape or wipe dishes – instead of rinsing – before you load them in the dishwasher.
- ◆ When washing dishes by hand, use one basin for washing and one for rinsing, rather than letting rinse water run.
- ◆ Soak pots and pans, instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- ◆ Keep a jug of water in your refrigerator for drinking, instead of getting it from the tap.
- ◆ Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under a running faucet.
- ◆ Put water in the sink to wash vegetables, rather than using running water.
- ◆ Use your garbage disposal sparingly. It’s “water-wiser” to throw away fruit and vegetable scraps. Even better, consider composting.
- ◆ Check for – and fix – leaky faucets. (See section on leaks.)

## Toilets

Often you can “hear” leaky toilets – if the water continues running after the tank has stopped filling. To locate the leak, take off the tank lid and flush. The water should come up to just below the overflow pipe. Try adjusting the control screw on the float level, so the valve shuts the water off at that level. If the valve itself is leaking, you may need to call a plumber.

You can test for “silent” leaks in your toilet by dropping a little food coloring into the tank, but do NOT flush. After about 10 minutes, if food coloring appears in the bowl, your toilet has a leak. It’s probably located around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These parts – available at your hardware or home improvement store – are also relatively easy to replace.



# Finding and Fixing Leaks You can do it yourself!

## Don’t Waste It!

A continuous leak from a hole at the following sizes would, over a two-month period, waste water and money in the following amounts:

- 1/4 inch leak = 787,667 gallons of water costing **\$3,041.00**
- 3/16 inch leak = 444,000 gallons of water costing **\$1,710.00**
- 1/8 inch leak = 197,333 gallons of water costing **\$752.00**
- 1/16 inch leak = 49,333 gallons of water costing **\$178.00**



## Faucets

It’s easy to see if faucets are dripping or leaking. They may continue to drip, even with the water turned off tightly, or water may be leaking out around the handle or base. Even a small drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day, and larger leaks can waste hundreds. Most leaks are caused by worn-out washers or “O” rings. Faucets have different designs, but here are some general steps for fixing leaks in stem-type faucets.

- Turn off the water at the “source” (generally under the sink).
- Turn on faucets to let any remaining water drain out.
- Remove decorative handles, if applicable.
- Use a wrench to remove the stem assembly, which has the washer at the bottom.
- Take the stem assembly and washer with you to the hardware/home improvement store to be sure you get the proper size replacement washer.
- Install the new washer in the bottom of the stem – usually held on by a small screw. (You may want to replace the screw as well.) Then screw the stem assembly back onto the faucet body.
- Tighten with a wrench until stem assembly is screwed all the way down to the body. But don’t over-tighten, or you might break the stem or body.
- Replace handle and turn water supply back on.

Your local hardware/home improvement store may have detailed instructions for fixing any type of faucet. Or, you can search online. Note that “joystick” type faucets that control both hot and cold water require different procedures, but they’re still relatively easy to repair.

Check for leaks in pipes (e.g. under sinks) and tighten joints if they’re leaking. And be sure to check outdoor taps for leaks as well.