

# 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 23% 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. Checking for leaks is easy - get more info at [www.conserveh2o.org/content/toilet-leaks](http://www.conserveh2o.org/content/toilet-leaks).
- 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.



Water. Save a Little. Help a Lot.  
[www.conserveh2o.org](http://www.conserveh2o.org)

This information is brought to you by the Regional Water Providers Consortium. The Consortium is a group of more than 20 water providers and the regional government Metro, serving Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties. Collectively, we work to educate the public on water conservation and efficient water use practices for our region.

# 10 WATER-SAVING TIPS

## 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.conserveh2o.org](http://www.conserveh2o.org).
- 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** rather than one long session to allow for better water absorption and to prevent run-off.



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