

How much water do you use? How much water can you save?



MARIN WATER

Water-Saving Tips for Your Home & Garden

Activity	Non-Conserving Use	Conserving Use	Savings
Shower (5 minute)	High-flow showerhead 20 gallons	High-efficiency showerhead 1.8 gallons/minute 9 gallons	55%
Toilet flushing	Conventional toilet 1.6 - 3.5 gallons/flush	High-efficiency toilet 1.28 gallons/flush	20-63%
Tub bath	Full 40 gallons	Minimal water level 20 gallons or less	50%
Automatic dishwasher	Pre-1994 model 15 gallons	Energy Star Model 3.5 gallons	77%
Kitchen faucet	High-flow 3 gallons/minute	Water-efficient aerator 1.5 gallons/minute	50%
Bathroom faucet	High-flow 2.2 gallons/minute	Water-efficient aerator 1.0 gallons/minute	45%
Clothes washer	Older top loader 40 gallons/load	High-efficiency washer 15 gallons/load or less	63%



Outdoors

- ✓ **Don't overwater.** Overwatering is the #1 cause of plant problems and wastes precious water resources. Symptoms of overwatering include algae, moss and mushroom growth; yellow lower leaves that fall off; and wilted young shoots. Try cutting back your watering times two minutes for every ten you normally water.
- ✓ **Irrigate efficiently.** Upgrade to drip irrigation or improve the efficiency of your current sprinklers by changing them to high-efficiency rotor-type nozzles.
- ✓ **Get smart.** Replace your standard controller with a smart irrigation controller.
- ✓ **If it's broken, fix it.** Inspect your irrigation system for leaks, pipe breaks, and clogged or missing emitters and repair if necessary.
- ✓ **Add a shut-off nozzle on your garden hose**—required under MMWD conservation regulations—and save about 5 - 7 gallons per minute.
- ✓ **Water while you sleep.** Water early in the morning so less is lost to evaporation. Remember that MMWD water conservation regulations prohibit irrigation between the hours of 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., except for system testing and repair.
- ✓ **Mulch, mulch, mulch.** A 3-inch layer of mulch throughout your planting beds reduces water loss from evaporation and helps keep down water-hogging weeds.
- ✓ **Only water plants.** Adjust sprinkler heads so they don't water the pavement. Sweep sidewalks and driveways clean instead of using the hose.
- ✓ **Choose climate-appropriate plants** and consider reducing the size of your thirsty lawn.

Indoors

- ✓ **Don't flush away savings.** Toilet flushing is the largest single source of indoor water use, accounting for about 30 percent of water used inside the home. Replace your old water-wasting toilet with a new high-efficiency model for substantial water savings.
- ✓ **Shorten your shower.** Install a water-efficient showerhead that uses 1.8 gallons/minute. Then save another 1.8 gallons for every minute you shave off your shower time.
- ✓ **Install water-efficient aerators** on all faucets, and turn off the tap when shaving, brushing teeth or washing dishes.
- ✓ **Upgrade your old water-guzzling clothes washer** to a new high-efficiency model. You could save more than 25 gallons per load.
- ✓ **Fill 'er up.** Wash only full loads of laundry or dishes using the energy-saving cycle.
- ✓ **Fix those leaks!** Because they're "on" 24/7, leaks can waste a lot of water. A running toilet can waste hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water per day.

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