

Ten ways to be more water-efficient in the home

- Install a low-flush toilet. It takes 5-7 gallons of water every time you flush a regular toilet, and a low-flow will let you save 40-50% of the total water usage in your home.
- Place a weighted plastic bottle filled with water in the water tank of your toilet to reduce your water usage by about 20%.
- Take shorter showers and consider using a water-saving showerhead.
- Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth instead of running it continuously. Use the tap for rinsing and short bursts of water for cleaning your brush. (This saves about 80% of the water normally used.)
- Purchase a water-saving clothes washer.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rooftop runoff, and use that water for lawn and garden watering, car washing and window cleaning.
- Promptly repair any leaks or drips in and around your taps. (One leak can waste several thousand litres of water per year.)
- When hand-washing dishes, never run water continuously. Wash dishes in a partially filled sink and then rinse them using the spray attachment on your tap.
- Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load, on the shortest cycle possible.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator instead of running your tap until the water gets cool. Rinse the container and renew the water every two to three days.

Eight ways to be more water-efficient in the garden

- Water your garden every three to five days, rather than for a short period every day.
- Water during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening.
- Do not water on windy days.
- Do not over-water in anticipation of a shortage. Soil cannot store extra water.
- Do not leave sprinklers running all day.
- Let your grass grow. Taller grass (6.5 centimeters) holds water better, and a healthy lawn will choke out weeds.
- Water your grass when it starts to develop a black tinge along the top. Green grass doesn't need water.
- Use drought-tolerant plants.