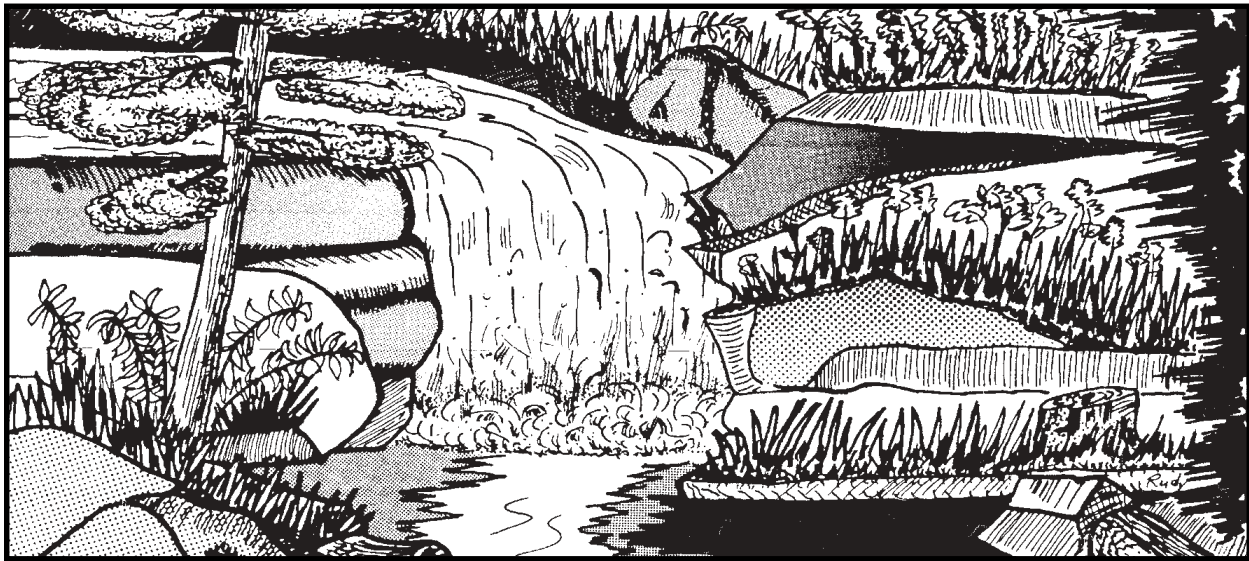




Fact sheet



Water Conservation For Homes, Institutions, and Business



THESE WATER SAVING TIPS WILL SAVE YOU MONEY

When You Waste Water, You're Literally Pouring Money Down the Drain.

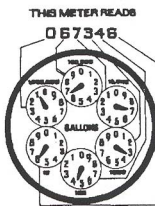
The simple truth is that most people don't even know how much water they use; let alone how much they waste.

So start by learning to read your water meter.

You can use the water meter to look for leaks. Just turn off all the water in the house and keep an eye on the meter for 15 to 20 minutes. If it registers a change, you have a leak. You can use it in the same way to measure how much water your appliances use.



Some meters record in gallons, but some show cubic feet of water used. For these, just multiply the figure shown by 7.5 to find gallons



If you have a circular-style meter, read each dial to find the total. If a pointer is between two numbers, read the lower number.

There are several ways to make a big difference in your water consumption. Start with your bathroom.

Every Time It's Flushed, Your Toilet Says Good-bye to Another 5 1/2 Gallons of Clean, Potable Water.

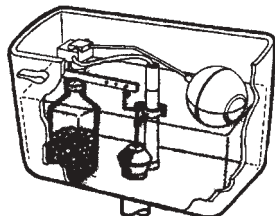
The toilet swallows up about 40% of all the water used in your home. On top of that, a large percentage of them are leaking. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day. To check for leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and see if moves towards a leak. If it shows up in the bowl, you know you have a problem. Chances are you can fix it yourself, with a little advice from the hardware store.

WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT A LOT OF THINGS, WATER ISN'T ONE OF THEM

HOW TO SAVE WATER WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR LIFESTYLE

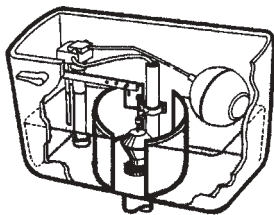
During a Drought, Saving Water is a Necessity. In Normal Times, it is Simply Good Business.

Turning your water guzzling toilet into a water saver is simple. Take some quart-sized plastic bottles, fill them with water and stones, and put them in the tank.



Water displacement devices range all the way from a plastic bag made available by some water companies to plastic bottles that your orange juice comes in. They operate on the same principal as toilet dams, combining adequate flushing with maximum saving of water.

Better yet, install one or two toilet dams (pictured below). These plastic or rubber coated shields can be fitted inside your tank in seconds and will hold back a gallon or two with each flush...

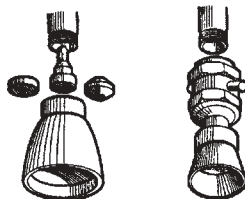


Install the toilet dams in such a way that they don't interfere with moving parts. They can be adjusted for optimum performance.

Your biggest money saver is probably the low flow showerhead because it saves both water and energy. The typical showerhead uses up to 9 gallons a minute; but modern designs can deliver a brisk, satisfying shower with less than a third of that volume. Low flow showerheads are now required for all new installations or replacements by the Uniform Construction Code.

Another way is to insert a flow restrictor or pressure regulator ahead of the showerhead.

Low flow showerheads save not only water but also the energy required to heat it. A good model costs \$12 to \$20, but it can save you over \$100 a year in heating costs if you have an electric hot water heater.



Flow-control inserts like the ones in the drawing are very inexpensive and fit into a standard showerhead. They reduce flow to three gallons per minute or less.

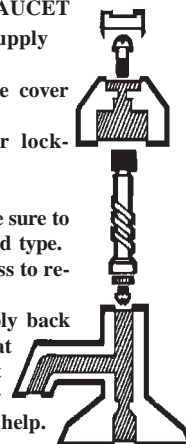
A low-flow showerhead is another way to cut the flow to about three gallons a minute without diminishing the showers effectiveness.

A Dripping Faucet is More Than Annoying. It's Expensive.

Every dripping faucet in your house is going through water, some at a rate of 15 gallons per day. Fixing leaks is usually a matter of spending a few cents for some new washers.

HOW TO FIX A FAUCET

1. Turn off water supply to faucet.
2. Remove decorative cover and handle.
3. Remove collar or locknut.
4. Take out stem.
5. Replace washer. Be sure to use correct size and type.
6. Reverse the process to reassemble faucet.
7. Turn water supply back on. Remember that all faucets are not alike. You may need a plumber's help.



Beyond that, two inexpensive devices sold at most hardware stores will save you gallons in the kitchen or bathroom.

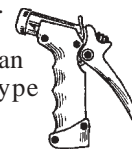
Spray taps spray water like a miniature shower, making washing and rinsing more efficient. Most have adaptors that allow you to screw them onto faucet spouts.

Aerators mix air with faucet water to reduce the flow. Like spray taps, most come with screw-on adaptors.

You Can Change a Few Habits Without Changing Your Lifestyle.

For instance:

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off the driveway.
- Don't use the toilet to flush down spiders or cigarette butts. They aren't worth it.
- Water the garden in the cool part of the day, preferably early morning. That way less will evaporate, and it takes a load off the peak demand to your water company.
- Only use a hose with an automatic "pistol" type nozzle.
- Use mulch on garden plants and shrubs to cut down on evaporation. It cuts down on weeding too.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine on a water saving cycle, and only when they are full.



Saving water saves you money. More important, it also saves a precious resource. In many parts of New Jersey, we are using water faster than Nature can put it back.

The Department of Environmental Protection is making water conservation a key part of the regulatory strategy to protect our water supplies; but it all comes down to you. A small investment on your part may save thousands of gallons in the long run.

For more information contact the Office of Water Conservation, CN029, Trenton, N.J. 08625. Other publications available through County Cooperative Extension Services: "Watering Guide for Home Gardeners" & "How to Take Care of Home Grounds During a Drought."

Source: NJDEP—Office of Water Conservation