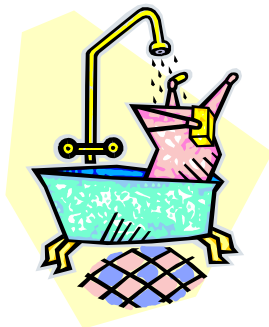


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## Indoor Water Efficiency Tips



### BATHROOMS

- Never use your toilet as a waste basket
  - Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking. Toilet repair advice is available at <http://www.toiletology.com/index.html>
  - Install low-flow toilets to replace conventional or older model toilets. All toilets manufactured after 1993 are considered Ultra Low Flush Toilets and they use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets manufactured prior to 1979 are very inefficient and should be changed out soon.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth
  - Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing.
  - If you use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full. Bathe small children together.
  - Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it – such as water a plant or garden.
  - Install aerators on all sink faucets and low-flow showerheads.



### KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
  - Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
  - Do not use water to defrost frozen foods, thaw in refrigerator overnight.
  - Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher
  - Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using a garbage disposal.
  - Operate the dishwasher only when completely full
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
  - Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50% in water and energy use.



### EVAPORATIVE COOLERS AND WATER CONDITIONERS

- All evaporative or swamp coolers use a great deal of water. Maintain your cooler to be as efficient as possible. Turn on the pump before turning on the fan, to saturate the pads first.
  - There are various water filtering devices available. Reverse osmosis systems are excellent but waste up to 20-gallons of water in each gallon processed.
- Water softening systems also waste water when softening drinking water.