

# Reduce Your Water Bill

The best way to help control your water bill is to make sure your home is free of leaks. Additional steps throughout the home & on your lawn will add up to savings, as well.

## 1. Find Leaks & Fix Them Quickly

- Check faucets to make sure they don't leak or drip. If a faucet drips once a second, it can waste hundreds of gallons a month.
- Remember to check outdoor spigots, as well.
- Check each toilet for leaks by adding food coloring to the tank & waiting 15 minutes. If food coloring appears in the bowl before you flush, you have a leak. Remember to flush so you don't stain the tank or bowl.
- An unusually high bill may indicate a leak in your underground supply line. The customer usually owns and is responsible for the part of the service line between the meter and the building.

## 2. Outdoors

- Water the lawn no more often than necessary. Do it early in the morning & avoid watering on windy or rainy days.
- Don't use a sprinkler that sprays with a fine mist.
- Use sensors & other technology to help sprinkler systems work more efficiently.
- When washing your car, use water & soap from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for the final rinse.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to the highest setting, especially during dry weather.
- When landscaping, look for plants, shrubs, & trees that use less water. Use a layer of mulch to reduce evaporation.

## 3. In the Bathroom

- A toilet made before 1994 may use thousands of gallons more each year than newer models. Consider installing a new toilet with the WaterSense label.
- Use a "toilet dam," such as a small bottle filled with rocks. Make sure it does not interfere with flushing mechanisms. Do not use a brick.
- A water-efficient showerhead will pay for itself in a few months.
- Install aerators on faucets.
- Don't leave faucets running while brushing teeth or shaving.

## 4. In the Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Use the dishwasher's "economy" setting if possible. Remember that hand-washing dishes may use more water than a dishwasher.
- Garbage disposals use large amounts of water. Consider composting food waste or putting it in the trash instead.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or frozen foods. Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in your microwave.
- If you run the faucet while waiting for water to get hot, collect it in glasses or a pitcher, then use the collected water for drinking, watering plants, etc.

## 5. Around the Home or Business

- Maintain your water heater following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wash only full loads of clothing & set the washing machine to the proper water level.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
- Look for water-efficient filtration or softening systems.
- Energy-efficient appliances are likely to be water-efficient, too.
- Know where your master shut-off valve is located. Be prepared to use it in case of a burst pipe or other emergency.



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