



10 Easy Ways to Conserve Water

One easy way to start conserving water is to take stock of how much water you need vs. how much you use every day. Now we're not proposing that you stop showering or install a composting toilet (although if you're up for it, more power to you!). Instead, we're here to give you 10 easy but effective water conservation tips you can use to significantly cut back on the 80 gallons of H₂O that the average American uses every day.

1) Slow the flow

Install **low-flow faucet aerators** on each of your faucets and a **low-flow shower head** in the bathroom. You'll keep the water pressure high, but reduce your average household water usage by up to 45 gallons a day.

2) Flush smarter

If you're building a new home or are considering a remodel, there are many great, environmentally friendly options for **dual-flush toilets** that conserve water with every flush. For a DIY low-flow version, place 2 plastic bottles weighed down with pebbles and water inside your toilet tank (away from mechanical parts). Just make sure there are at least 3 gallons of water remaining in the tank so it flushes properly - otherwise you'll have to flush twice and miss the whole point!

3) Put less down the drain

Compost food and vegetable waste instead of using water to flush it down the garbage disposal.

4) Turn it off

This water conservation tip is an oldie, but a goodie - turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. And when shaving, fill up the sink with a few inches of water to rinse off the blade, instead of keeping the faucet running.

5) Fill 'er up!

If you have a dishwasher, make sure to only run full loads to make good use of all that water. If you're washing by hand, fill up the sink to conserve water rather than keep the faucet running.

6) Think ahead

If you like your drinking water cold, keep a **water filter pitcher** in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until it gets cold each time. That way you'll stay hydrated and not waste a drop!

7) Check for leaks

To check if your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes - if you see color in the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak!

8) Raise your glass

Give each person in your household a designated glass or **reusable water bottle**, so they don't grab a new glass each time they want a drink. As an added bonus, you'll seriously cut down on the number of dishes you have to wash!

9) Catch what you can

Place a bucket in the shower with you or under your rain spout to collect water and reuse it to water your plants and lawn.

10) Grow it out

Raise your lawnmower blade so it doesn't cut the grass too short. Longer grass shades the soil, so it holds moisture longer. And when you do water your lawn, make sure it's during the cooler morning or evening hours to minimize evaporation and conserve water.