



***Water is essential for drinking, bathing, cooking, cleaning and a whole lot more.***

***But a lot of water gets wasted.*** This happens both indoors and outdoors in many households. This is often due to water use habits and appliances that are not water-efficient. Leaky pipes and fixtures are also big water-wasters.

***Saving water has benefits.*** They include saving money, saving energy and helping the environment. Increased demand for water has already led to shortages in many communities. Conserving water now can mean we'll have more to use in the future.

***Everyone in the family can help save water.*** If the whole family makes a few small changes in how they use water, you can save hundreds or even thousands of gallons each year.

There's a lot you can do to save water.  
*Here are 7 ways to start TODAY...*

1. ***Evaluate your water habits.*** Have a family discussion about water use and ways to cut down. For example, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth? Do you take extra-long showers? There are simple things to do to start saving water today!
2. ***Look for leaks—and repair them right away.*** Most leaks are easy to detect and repair. Check faucets and pipes for dripping water. Replace washers, and repair or replace fixtures, if needed. For toilets, add food coloring to the tank water and check the bowl in 15 minutes. If there's color in the toilet bowl, it means there's a leak.
3. ***Locate your water meter.*** Read the meter first at night, after the day's water use has ended—and again in the morning before any water is used. Subtract the first reading from the second reading to tell how much water (if any) leaked out. Then look for leaks.
4. ***Know the proper settings on your washer.*** To help lower your water and energy bills, choose a water and energy-saving model if buying a new washer. Be sure it has such features as: a load size selector and variable water temperature controls. Use the load selector to match the water level to the size of the load. Presoak heavily soiled items.
5. ***Wash dishes wisely.*** If you use a dishwasher, wash only full loads. Scrape dishes (but don't pre-rinse) and soak pots and pans before washing. Don't run the water continuously. Limit your use of the garbage disposal. Better yet—compost!
6. ***Be efficient in the shower and bath.*** Plug the drain before you run water for baths, and take shallow baths. Keep showers short. Shut off the water while soaping up and shampooing.
7. ***Use less water to clean your home.*** Use a pail or basin instead of running water. Also, use a sponge mop instead of a string mop (sponge mops use less water and take less water to keep clean). Presoak items such as grills and oven parts overnight. Then scrub with an abrasive brush or pad.

