

Saving Water can Save you Money

How much water you use at home depends on the size of your household, usage habits, and the type of plumbing fixtures in your home. Some of the largest uses of water include lawn sprinklers, automatic irrigation systems, toilets and washing machines. Minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of wasted water each year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. There's plenty you can do to conserve water — and at the same time save money on your utility bills. Here are some easy steps:

Turn off the Tap

- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Take short showers.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Install a water saving shower head; they use one-third the amount of water that a regular showerhead uses.

In the Kitchen and Laundry

- Scrape, rather than rinse dishes before loading into a dish washer; wash only full loads.
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight; do not use water to defrost foods.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

Outdoors

- Sweep driveways, steps, and sidewalks rather than hosing them off.
- Control the flow of a hose with an automatic shut off nozzle.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day and only as needed. Outdoor water use averages about 117 gallons per day.
- Cover outdoor pools when not in use to avoid evaporation.

Maintenance Tips

- Fix leaks. A dripping faucet can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water a year. A toilet that runs continuously can use almost 200 gallons per day.
- Consider water saving units, such as low-flow toilets, when replacing appliances.
- Read your water meter to help monitor your water use and detect leaks.
- Follow these easy steps to check for water leaks.
 - > Make sure no water is running.
 - > Turn off all faucets and water-consuming appliances - even your automatic icemaker, evaporative cooler and furnace humidifier.
 - > Read your water meter.
 - > Write down the current reading including tenths of a cubic foot (or gallons).
 - > Read the meter again after 30 to 60 minutes. If the meter reading has changed, you have a leak.

For More Information

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned water, sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC also has limited jurisdiction over telecommunications providers in Missouri. The PSC works to ensure Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related issue that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at **1-800-392-4211** or visit our website at **psc.mo.gov**.



Missouri Public Service Commission

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