



Home Water Conservation Checklist

Complete this checklist to identify ways to improve the water efficiency of your home. [Water Sense](https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/), a partnership program between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and private industry, has information that can help identify ways to reduce water usage, inside and outside the home. <https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/>

Inside the Home

Was your home constructed after 1994?

- Yes** – Homes built after 1994 were constructed after federal water efficiency requirements were enacted for water using fixtures including toilets and showerheads. It is likely the fixtures in your home were manufactured to be water efficient.
- No** – Homes built before 1994 were constructed prior to federal water efficiency requirements for water using fixtures and tend to have greater opportunity for inefficient fixture replacement.

Are any of the toilets in your home more than 20 years old (pre-1994)?

- Yes** – It's likely that these toilets are inefficient. Replacing them with efficient models could save over 2 gallons per flush.
- No** – Your fixtures are designed to flush efficiently at 1.6 gallons per flush or less.

Tip: High-efficiency toilets (HET) use 20% less water than the federal required 1.6 gallons per flush.

Does your toilet run during the day or in the middle of the night?

- Yes** – It sounds like you may have a leaking toilet that could use a flapper change. A plumber will be able to make any necessary repairs.
- No** – The toilet doesn't have a leak that can be heard, however, it's important to maintain your toilet and periodically check for leaks. To check for a leaking toilet, remove the toilet tank lid and add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Wait 5 minutes, if colored water appears in the bowl that may indicate a flapper leak.

Tip: A leaking toilet flapper valve is one of the most common leaks inside the home. A continually running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of clean water a day.

Have your showerheads been replaced in the past 7 years?

- Yes** – Your shower heads are likely water efficient.
- No** – We recommend replacing your current model with an efficient *EPA WaterSense* labeled showerhead.
- Not Sure** – Your showerheads may be ready for replacement with an efficient model. Look for the *EPA WaterSense* label when shopping.

Tip: Reduce the length of your shower by 3 minutes and save 8 gallons per shower.

Are your kitchen and bathroom faucets equipped with faucet aerators?

- Yes** – Your faucets should be flowing at an efficient rate.
- No** – Look for *EPA WaterSense* labeled faucet aerators.

Tip: Bathroom faucets with aerators generally use about 2 gallons per minute. Turn off the faucet when lathering hands, brushing teeth, and shaving to save water.

Is your clothes washing machine either a front loader or Energy Star model?

- Yes** – It's likely that your clothes washing machine is an efficient model.
- No** – Your clothes washer may be inefficient and you may want to consider replacing it with a high-efficiency model.

Tip: When doing laundry, always wash full loads. Conventional washers typically use up to 40 gallons per load while efficient machines use approximately 15 gallons per load.

Outside the Home

Do you have a garden or outdoor landscape?

- Yes** – The Environmental Protection Agency has resources ready to help you use water-wisely. Learn more about water-smart landscaping at www3.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping_tips.html
- No** – Your home's landscape water use should be minimal compared to total home water use. If you plan to install a landscape, please review the information below.

If you use an irrigation controller, is it properly set?

- Yes** – My irrigation schedule is based on the landscape's water requirements and is adjusted seasonally.
- No** – Speak to your irrigation professional to receive assistance on how to schedule your irrigation efficiently.

Tip: Weather-based irrigation controllers automatically adjust the irrigation schedule based on your landscape's water needs and local weather patterns.

Does your irrigation system have any leaks?

- Yes** – Irrigation leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water. Be sure to fix any irrigation leaks such as broken spray heads or pipes as soon as possible. Many irrigation leaks can be fixed with easily found replacement parts or by contacting an irrigation professional.
- No** – An irrigation system without any leaks distributes water to your landscape effectively. To maximize efficiency, ensure that your irrigation schedule is appropriate.
- Not Sure** – Run your irrigation system on manual mode and inspect the system for leaks.

Tip: Your irrigation system should be checked regularly to make sure it is not damaged or leaking.

Do your shrub beds have a layer of mulch?

- Yes** – Mulch helps increase water efficiency by reducing the rate that water is evaporated from the soil by the sun.
- No** – Apply a minimum of 2 inches of mulch to your shrub beds help to reduce the need for frequent irrigation and increase plant health.

Tip: Mulch not only helps make your garden water efficient, it also discourages unwanted weeds from growing.