

WATERSAVING TIPS

from the

**NEW BRITAIN
BOARD OF
WATER
COMMISSIONERS**

New Britain



Tap is tops!



Very few people wake up in the morning and say, “Today I’m going to waste some water.” Most water wasters simply don’t know the rules.

Be a Water-Saver -



reduce your bill!

It's not just your toilet, showerheads, or faucets that waste water. It's **you!** Think about it. Have you ever let the water run to get a colder glass of water or flushed the toilet just to throw something away?

Be honest now. There's a lot of little things that together end up as this great big water wasting problem. Watch what you do and change your water wasting ways. To get started, for approximately \$10 to \$20, the average homeowner can install two low-flow shower heads, place dams or bottles in the toilet tanks, install low-flow aerators on the faucets, and repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets. This could save **10,000** to more than **25,000** gallons (from 1300 to 3300+ cubic feet or \$36 to \$92+) per year for a family of four, and would pay for itself in less than 6 months! Even more could be saved if good outdoor water conservation is practiced for the lawn and garden.

Here are some specific tips for the various areas in your home that will help you save:

WaterSaving Tips

(click on the topic to select)

- In the Bathroom,
- In the Kitchen,
- Around the house
- Outdoors, and
- Leak Repair Checklist

WaterSaving Tips In The Bathroom..

Bathroom use accounts for about 75 percent of the water used inside the home.

- Check regularly for any leaks in your toilet, faucets and water hose bibs and fix them. *Water saved: up to 200 gallons per day.*
- Install a low-flow showerhead. *Water saved: about 2 gallons per minute.*
- Replace older, larger-use toilets with the newer higher efficiency toilets. *Water saved: .5 to 5 gallons per flush.*
- Never use the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.
- Take short showers and save the baths for special occasions. *Water saved: 2 to 5 gallons per minute.*

1. Install water-efficient toilets. OK, we know you don't spend a lot of time thinking about your toilet. Not many people do, besides plumbers. Toilets account for 26% of the water used at home. That's a lot of water. Old toilets can use from 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush. New low-volume flush toilets use only 1.6 gallons per flush, which gets the job done just as well, but with less water.
2. When building a new home or remodeling a bathroom, install a new low-volume flush toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush.
3. Test toilets for leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet to the water in the tank, but do not flush the toilet. Watch to see if the coloring appears in the bowl with a few minutes. If it does, the toilet has a silent leak that needs to be repaired.
4. Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts, or other trash. This wastes a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.
5. Take short showers and install a cutoff valve, or turn the water off while washing and back on again only to rinse.
6. Take a shower instead of taking a bath. Showers with low-flow showerheads often use less water than taking a bath.
7. Reduce the level of the water being used in a bathtub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
8. Install a low-flow showerhead that limits the flow from the shower . Low flow showerheads can save over 2 gallons per minute. It feels like a regular showerhead. It gets you wet just like a regular showerhead. And no, the water doesn't come out in little wimpy spurts. It just uses a lot less water than a regular showerhead.
9. Shampoo hair in the shower. Shampooing in the shower takes only a little more water than is used to shampoo hair during a bath and much less than shampooing and bathing separately.
10. Do not use hot water when cold will do. Washing hands with soap and cold water can save water and energy. Hot water should be added only when hands are especially dirty.
11. When brushing teeth, turn the water off until it is time to rinse.
12. Do not let the water run when washing hands. Water should be turned off while washing and scrubbing and be turned on again to rinse. A cutoff valve may be installed on the faucet.
13. When shaving, fill the lavatory basin with hot water instead of letting the water run continuously.
14. Install faucet aerators to reduce water consumption.



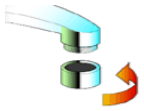
Get The
LOW DOWN



WaterSaving Tips In The Kitchen



About 8 percent of in-home water use takes place in the kitchen.



1. Don't rinse dishes before loading dishwasher. *Water saved: 20 gallons per load.*
2. Install a low-flow faucet aerator, which can cut water use in half. *Water saved: 1 to 2 gallons per minute.*
3. Install aerators - next time you're washing the peanut butter off your knife, ask yourself, "Hey do I really need this much water to wash off this peanut butter?" Our answer is "no!" Those little gizmos up there are low-flow aerators and here's how they can save you a lot of water. Aerators save water just by adding air to the water. They don't take away the water pressure, but they do use a lot less water. Install aerators in all of your faucets--the bathrooms, the kitchen, everywhere there's a faucet. Aerators save you about 2 gallons of water per minute and they're cheap.
4. Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. An efficient dishwasher usually uses much less water than washing dishes by hand. Never run the dishwasher without a full load. This practice will save not only water, but energy, detergent, and money as well.
5. Scrape the dishes clean instead of rinsing them before washing. There is no need to rinse unless they are heavily soiled.
6. Use a pan of water (or place a stopper in the sink) for washing and rinsing pots, pans, dishes, and cooking implements, rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
7. When buying a new dishwasher, consider purchasing a water-saving model. (New models use up to 25 percent less water than older ones.) *Water saved: 3 gallons per load.*
8. Use the garbage disposal sparingly or start a compost pile.
9. Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running water from the tap until it is cool is wasteful. Better still, keeping cold water in a picnic jug on a kitchen counter to avoid opening the refrigerator door frequently can save both water and energy.
10. Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning vegetables, rather than letting the water run over them.
11. Use only a little water in the pot and put a lid on it for cooking most food. Not only does this method save water, but food is more nutritious since vitamins and minerals are not poured down the drain with the extra cooking water.
12. Always keep water conservation in mind, and think of other ways to save in the kitchen. Small kitchen savings from not making too much coffee or letting ice cubes melt in a sink can add up in a year's time.

WaterSaving Tips Around the house



1. Wash only full loads in the clothes washer. Washing small loads uses over twice as much water per pound of laundry.
2. When buying a new clothes washer, consider purchasing a water-saving model. *Water saved: up to 40 gallons per load.*
3. Wash only a full load when using an automatic washing machine (32 to 59 gallons are required per load). It wastes both water and energy to run only a half full machine.
4. Whenever possible, use the lowest water-level setting on the washing machine for light or partial loads.
5. Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and to conserve the hot water for uses that cold water cannot serve. (This is also better for clothing made of today's synthetic fabrics.)
6. Insulate hot water pipes where possible to avoid long delays (and wasted water) while waiting for the water to "run hot." When building a new home, keep the distance short between the hot water heater and showers and other places that hot water is used.
7. Check water requirements of various models and brands when considering purchasing any new appliances. Some use less water than others.
8. Insulate all hot water pipes to reduce the delays (and wasted water) experienced while waiting for the water to "run hot".
9. Be sure the water heater thermostat is not set too high. Extremely hot settings waste water and energy because the water often has to be cooled with cold water before it can be used.



And Outdoors..

1. Water only when needed. Look at the grass, feel the soil, or use a soil moisture meter to determine when to water.
2. Do not over-water. Soil can absorb only so much moisture, and the rest simply runs off. A timer will help, and either a kitchen timer or an alarm clock will do. One and a half inches of water applied once a week in the summer will keep most Texas grasses alive and healthy.
3. Water lawns early in the morning during the hotter summer months. Otherwise, much of the water used on the lawn can simply evaporate between the sprinkler and the grass.
4. To avoid excessive evaporation, use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water, rather than a fine mist. Sprinklers that send droplets out on a low angle also help control evaporation.
5. Set automatic sprinkler systems to provide thorough, but infrequent watering. Pressure-regulating devices should be set to design specifications. Rain shutoff devices can prevent watering in the rain.
6. Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, or shrubs, or turn soaker hoses upside-down so the holes are on the bottom. This will help avoid evaporation.
7. Forget about watering the streets or walks or driveways. They will never grow a thing.

WaterSaving Tips **YOUR LEAK REPAIR CHECKLIST**

Plumbing leaks waste water and cost you money. Finding and fixing leaks is easy and inexpensive. Start by fixing all visible leaks, both inside and outside your home or business. If you have a drip at a faucet or toilet, you usually can repair it yourself with a few simple tools in less than one hour. Check all water line connections and faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water EACH DAY, or 5,000 gallons per month, and will add to the water bill

- **Toilet Leaks** - Leaks inside your toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day.
- **Faucet/Showerhead Leaks** - Faucet leaks are easy to spot. If a faucet is leaking hot water, it is also costing you money to heat the water. Remember to check all sinks and bathtubs.
- **Outdoor Leaks** Check all hose bibs (outside faucets) for visible drips or wet spots on the ground. Check hoses and nozzles annually for leaks and repair or replace if necessary.
- If you have an outside irrigation system, visually check it each month for broken heads and wet spots along lines and repair the leaks.
- **Invisible Leaks** - After you have repaired all visible leaks, check for invisible leaks, such as a leak between the water meter and the house.
 1. Make sure no water is in use inside or outside the house (don't forget automatic icemakers).
 2. Find your water meter.
 3. Record the current meter reading. Wait 15 minutes. (Remember: no water should be used during this period.)
 4. Read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak. If you cannot find the leak easily yourself, you should consult a plumber.