



Maintaining the Home

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Maintaining the Home: Indoor Water Conservation Tips

To Help Save Water In The Bathroom:

- **Check all faucets, pipes and toilets periodically for leaks**

A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet will add up to 15 gallons of water a day, 105 gallons a week or 5,475 gallons of wasted water a year. Check your flapper periodically to make sure it's a tight fit.

- **Install water saving showerheads**

Low-flow showerheads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less and are relatively inexpensive. Older showerheads use 5 to 7 gallons per minute.

- **Try a navy shower**

Due to a lack of fresh water aboard ship, sailors are taught to get wet, turn off the water, soap and scrub. Then briefly turn the water on to rinse. This is a good routine for all of us.

- **Take shorter showers or take a bath**

Simply taking shorter showers will save gallons of water. For long exposures to the water, a partially filled bath instead of a shower will use less water.

- **Install a 1.6-gallon, low-flow toilet**

Ultra low-flow toilets use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Using these could cut indoor water use by as much as 20 percent. Older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.

- **Check for toilet leaks**

Once a year, check for toilet leaks. Remove the toilet tank cover and drip 10 drops of food

coloring into the tank. After 15 minutes check for color in the toilet bowl. If you see any color, your toilet has a leak and should be repaired immediately. Again, remember to check your flapper periodically to make sure it's a tight fit.

- **Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket**

Using a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash will save gallons of water that are otherwise wasted.

- **Install high efficiency, low-flow faucet aerators**

Older faucets use between 3 and 7 gallons per minute. Low-flow faucet aerators use no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute. The aerators can be attached to most existing faucets.

- **Fix leaky faucets immediately**

A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer. Small faucet leaks can waste 20 gallons of water a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

- **Turn off the water while shaving, brushing teeth, etc.**

Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth, wash your face or hands, or shave. This can save 3 to 7 gallons per minute.

To Help Save Water In The Kitchen and Laundry:

- **Fill your dishwasher**

Before rinsing dishes, put the sink stopper in place instead of running the water. If you need

to use the garbage disposal, release the used sink water as the disposal is turned on. Your dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it is full or just partially full of dishes, so be sure to fill it. Many dishwashers have a water saver cycle to save even more water.

- **Keep drinking water in your refrigerator**
Don't let the faucet run until the water cools. Instead, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running faucets waste 3 to 7 gallons of water per minute.
- **Defrost food in the refrigerator**
When defrosting food, plan ahead to thaw it in the refrigerator or microwave oven instead of under running water.
- **Select proper water level for laundry**
Unlike your dishwasher, you can control the amount of water used by your clothes washers. Select the proper water level for each load of laundry. A front-loading washing machine uses one third less water than a top-loading machine.
- **Reuse fish tank water**
Use fish tank water on your household plants. Besides saving water, it makes a good fertilizer.

This material was adapted from publications produced by the City of Albuquerque, N.M. City of Albuquerque information can be found on the Web at <http://www.cabq.gov>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

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Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
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Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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