

7. Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, abandoned free-flowing wells, etc.) to the property owner, local authorities or your water agency.
8. Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness. Turn softeners off while on vacation.
9. Don't install a water-to-air heat pump or air-conditioning system. Newer air-to-air models are just as efficient and don't waste water.
10. Use water from dehumidifiers and air conditioners to water indoor and outdoor plants.

**SHARE THESE TIPS WITH
FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS &, CO-WORKERS.**

**LET'S START A CONSERVATION
REVOLUTION!**

**RIVANNA
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**



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**62 Ways
YOU
Can Conserve Water**

62 Ways YOU Can Conserve Water

Faucets

1. Repair dripping faucets quickly. At a rate of one drop of water/second, a drip can waste 2,700 gallons/year.
2. Don't let the tap run while washing your hands, face, or brushing your teeth.
3. When shaving, fill the bottom of the sink with enough water to rinse the razor rather than letting the water run—or simply switch to an electric razor.
4. Install faucet aerators, which reduce wastewater by mixing water and air.
5. Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. (Also lowers water-heating costs and hardware stores carry these for \$250-\$300.)
6. Keep a water pitcher in the refrigerator rather than running the tap to obtain a cold drink.

Toilets

1. Keep toilet flushing to a minimum. Each flush of a standard toilet can use 5-7 gallons of water. During drought, adopt the old camp motto "If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down."
2. Don't throw tissues, cotton balls or other soft paper product into the toilet; unlike toilet paper, these substances are not made to dissolve in water and they will clog plumbing.
3. Fill a plastic ball, bottle or inflatable bag with water and put it inside your toilet tank. It displaces some of the stored water, saving gallons each day. Note: Make sure the object doesn't touch the operating parts.
4. Just like with your faucets, replace or adjust sticky toilet handles quickly.
5. Toilet flappers are the most likely part to leak. Find out if you have a flapper leak by putting dye strips or food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl, you do. (Flush as soon as your test is done—food coloring can stain your tank and bowl!) If you find a leak, fix it quickly—replacement parts are cheap, available at any hardware store, and easy to install.

GENERAL TIPS



rainwaterbarrel.org

epa.gov

1. Place rain barrels under gutter downspouts. They can collect rainwater for plants, car washing or general cleaning projects. Water from rain barrels is also exempt from drought restrictions. RCS sells rain barrels through Eltzroth & Thompson in Charlottesville and Garden Trade Center in Faber.
2. Look for the WaterSense label when purchasing fixtures and appliances or hiring an irrigation professional. WaterSense products meet EPA standards of at least 20% greater water efficiency while maintaining high performance levels.
3. Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak. Want to narrow it down further? Close the main water shut-off valve in your home; if the meter is still turning, the leak is between your meter and the shut-off valve; if it stops, the leak is somewhere in your home.
4. If in the City, pay attention to your water bill. Does your usage spike during certain times of the year, e.g., during summer? If so, consider implementing more of the Outdoor Tips. Is your overall usage increasing over time? That could indicate a leak. Visit the "My Account" page on the City's website to view the past 24 months of your water usage.
5. If you have a well, check your pump periodically. Listen to hear if the pump kicks on and off while water is not being used. If it does, you have a leak.
6. Make sure you know where your water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.

turn it off at the faucet to avoid leaks. Do not leave a hose unattended; it can pour out 600 gallons in a few hours.

6. Check hose connectors to make sure plastic or rubber washers are in place. Washers prevent leaks.
7. Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position them so water lands on the lawn and shrubs, not paved areas. Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly. Do not leave sprinklers unattended; use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn them off.
8. Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Soaker hoses and micro or drip irrigation are examples.
9. Instead of a hose, use water buckets to wash your cars at home; or find a car wash that uses recycled water.

Lawn & Garden

1. If you must water lawns, do so at night or in the early morning. Plants absorb water better when the sun is at its weakest.
2. Don't overwater. Lawns only need one inch of water/week, and less in winter. Use a rain gauge to determine how much water your yard receives each week from rain and irrigation.
3. Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
4. Don't over-fertilize—fertilizer increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
5. Group plants together based on similar water needs. This will reduce overwatering plants that don't need much.
6. Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. These plants require less water, fertilizer and maintenance. Visit the Virginia Native Plant Society website for appropriate species and more information.

6. Replace standard toilets with low-flow ones that use only 1.1-2.2 gallons per flush. The City of Charlottesville has a \$100 low flow replacement toilet rebate you can apply for, and many models may come under that amount.

Showers, Baths & Plumbing



greenleap.com.au

1. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. Some units are available that allow you to cut off the flow without adjusting the water temperature knobs.
2. Install a shower on/off switch, which keeps the water temperature the same. It lets you turn off the water during lathering your hair or shaving. Hardware stores carry some for less than \$10.
3. Take shorter showers. Keep a timer in the shower to remind you when to turn off the water.
4. Collect gray water—shower/bath/sink “warm-up” water—in a bucket to use in watering plants, washing dishes, or flushing the toilet.
5. Insulate pipes to get hot water faster, so less water is wasted.
6. Install water saving flow restrictors.
7. Planning a renovation or new bathroom? Consider water recirculation in your sink and shower plumbing. Water won't come out of the fixture until it's warm, eliminating “warm-up” waste entirely. You can also retrofit existing plumbing with a recirculating pump.

Dishwashing

1. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or carry a

reusable water bottle. This cuts down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.

2. Replace your conventional dishwasher with an Energy Star model to reduce the amount of water used from as much as 14 gallons/load to as little as 4 gallons/load.
3. Only run the dishwasher when full.
4. Don't rinse dishes under a running faucet prior to putting them into a dishwasher. Wipe them down with paper napkins from the meal or use a partially filled sink to do any necessary pre-washing.
5. If you must rinse, use the sprayer. If you don't have a sprayer, install one.
6. Soak heavily soiled dishes and pans in soapy sink water instead of scraping under running water.
7. When washing dishes by hand, rinse them in a half-full basin or pan or instead of under running water.
8. Before draining your dishwasher, use it to rinse out recyclable glass, cans or plastic containers.

Kitchen Tips



howstuffworks.com

1. Clean out your garbage disposal by turning it on when you pull the plug on dirty dishwater.
2. Dispose of paper and excess food in the garbage rather than the garbage disposal. Garbage disposals can add 50% to the volume of solids in a septic tank, which can lead to malfunctions and maintenance problems.

3. Consider composting rather than using the garbage disposal. It's also great for your garden!
4. Replace your disposal with an Energy Star machine.
5. Scrub vegetables with brush in a pan or bowl of water and turn on the faucet only for a quick rinse.
6. Thaw frozen foods in advance in the refrigerator or use the microwave instead of running water.
7. Take ice cube trays from the freezer a few minutes before they are needed. The ice cubes will loosen at room temperature without the need to run them under tap water.

Laundry

1. Only wash full loads if possible. Hand wash delicates and unique items. If washing an unfull load is unavoidable, use the water level selector to make sure the washer settings match the amount of the load.
2. If rinse water from the washer empties into a basin, collect the water for use in other cleaning projects.
3. When buying a new washer, get a front-loading machine, which has the lowest water and electricity use. Look for the Energy Star label. The Energy Star website also has a list of new washer rebates.

Sprinkler, Hoses and Water Features

1. Avoid recreational water toys and ornamental water features that require a constant stream of water (e.g., running fountains), unless you have a source of recycled water for it.
2. If you have a swimming pool, buy a new water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses 180-250 gallons of water.
3. When your pool is not in use, reduce evaporation by using a pool cover.
4. Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to brush debris from these areas. If your business requires a deeper cleaning, consider a high pressure waterbroom that uses only 2.5 gallons/minute.
5. Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose, which can be adjusted down to a fine spray so that water flows only as needed. When done,