Coakley Bay Association

Water Conservation Tips
15 Water Conservation Tips for Coakley Bay Condominiums

Note: Toilet water use does *not* usually have to be conserved at Coakley Bay because we use recycled gray water in the toilets (and watering plants) for which there is usually no shortage.

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks
Even a small drip (10 drips/minute) from your faucet, leaking 24/7, wastes more than 500 gallons/year – enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in the dishwasher. An inexpensive faucet washer is usually enough to stop them.

2. Take shorter showers
A typical shower uses two to five gallons of water a minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to get wet, turn off, soap up including shampoo, and rinse off. Some feel this actually makes one feel cleaner.

3. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors, faucet aerators, fix leaks
Inexpensive shower heads (labeled WaterSense) or flow restrictors will cut your shower flow to about two gallons a minute instead of five to ten. They are easy to install, and your showers will still be cleansing and refreshing.
Added benefit: using less hot water will reduce your expensive St. Croix electric bill.

4. Take shallow baths
A partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.

5. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
Before brushing, wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing your mouth.

6. Turn off the water while shaving
Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water in which to rinse your razor.

7. Use your automatic dishwasher for full loads only
Running your dishwasher less often saves water and money.

8. Use your automatic clothes washing machines for full loads only
Doing half loads, or small laundry loads add up to gallons of wasted water. Modify washer machine setting if you must do a small load.

9. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables
Rinse your vegetables instead in a bowl or sink full of clean water, then use this to water your plants.

10. Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator.
This puts a stop to the wasteful practice of running tap water to cool it for drinking.

11. Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator overnight rather than using a running tap of hot water. This will also save on your electric bill.

12. Scrape your plate instead of rinsing it before loading into the dishwasher
Used napkins from the dinner table work great for this.

13. Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean

14. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing
If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, first gather all your washed dishes in a dish rack or corner of the sink, then rinse them quickly with a spray device or a pan of water.

15. When using hot water, try to use the initial cold water to good purpose.
When washing your face/hands, use the initial cold water to clean reading glasses/sink/scrub vegetables. For multiple showers, let the more cool-tolerant person shower first.