

COAKLEY BAY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Water Saving Tips

Laundry

Use Clothes Washer for Only Full Loads

With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons (20 liters) for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load, or use the Auto-Sensing setting on the washer.

Consider a High Efficiency Washing Machine

The most efficient washing machines use as little as seven gallons per load, compared to a whopping 54 for a traditional washer. A high efficiency (HE) washer should easily pay for itself over its lifetime in water and energy savings. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 – 50% less water and 50% less energy per load.

Shower

Install Water-Saving Showerheads, Shower Timers, and Low-Flow Faucet Aerators

Inexpensive water-saving low-flow showerheads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Long showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You can easily install a ShowerStart, or add a ShowerStart converter to existing showerheads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm. On Demand water heaters eliminate the "warm up" time for the shower water.

Take Shorter Showers

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water. You can also install a simple shower timer. Shaving in shower: turn water off while lathering and shaving. Turn water on to rinse.

Faucets and Sinks

Fit Household Faucets with Aerators

This easy and effective home water conservation method is also the cheapest! A simple low-flow aerator saves water in the bathroom, while a swiveling aerator can serve multiple purposes in the kitchen

Turn Off the Water After You Wet Your Toothbrush

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Rinse Your Razor in the Sink

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

Minimize Use of Kitchen Sink Garbage Disposal Units

In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly, and also add considerably to the volume of solids in a septic tank, which can lead to maintenance problems.

Opt for the Dishwasher Over Hand Washing

It may seem counterintuitive, but it turns out washing dishes by hand uses a lot more water than running the dishwasher, even more so if you have a water-conserving model. The EPA estimates an efficient dishwasher uses half as much water, saving close to 5,000 gallons each year.

When Washing Dishes by Hand, Don't Leave the Water Running for Rinsing

If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.

Don't Let the Faucet Run While You Clean Vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Use a dual-setting aerator.

Keep a Bottle of Drinking Water in the Fridge

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle. If you are filling water bottles to bring along on outdoor hikes, consider buying a personal water filter, which enables users to drink water safely from rivers or lakes or any available body of water.

Leaks

Check Faucets and Pipes for Leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Some faucet leaks are easily spotted, but others take a little more effort to locate. Dry sinks and tubs thoroughly and allow to sit for an hour. If you notice wetness, you've found a leak. To find leaks from faucet handles, dry the area around them before running water. You'll see water collecting next to them if there's a leak.

Extending Your Conservation Measures

Recycle Your Water Where You Can

Collect the cold water you run before it's hot enough to shower and use it to water plants or flush the toilet (known as a bucket flush). Rinse water from dishes and food preparation can be collected and used to soak other dishes.

75% of water used indoors is in the bathroom, and 25% of this is for the toilet. The average toilet uses 4 gallons per flush(gpf). You can invest in a ULF (ultra-low flush) toilet which will use only 2 gpf. But you can also install a simple tank bank, costing about \$2, which will save .8 gpf. This saves 40% of what you

would save with the ULF toilet. Using simple methods like tank banks, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators you can retrofit your home for under\$50.

By using water-saving features you can reduce your in-home water use by 35%. This means the average household, which uses 130,000 gallons per year, could save 44,00 gallons of water per year. On a daily basis, the average household, using 350 gallons per day, could save 125 gallons of water per day. The average individual, currently using 70 gallons per day, could save 25 gallons of water per day.

When buying low-flow aerators, be sure to read the label for the actual 'gpm' (gallons per minute) rating. Often, the big box retailers promote "low-flow" which are rated at 2.5 gpm, which is at the top of the low-flow spectrum. This may be needed for the kitchen sink, but a 1.5 gpm aerator works fine for the bathroom sink and most water outlets, delivering the same spray force in a comfortable, soft stream.

Finally, it should be noted that installing low-flow aerators, showerheads, tank banks and other water-saving devices usually is a very simple operation which can be done by the homeowner and does not even require the use of tools. Water conservation at home is one of the easiest measures to put in place, and saving water should become part of everyday family practice.

4/2019