
A dynamic splash of clear blue water against a light blue background, with numerous bubbles and droplets scattered throughout. The water appears to be falling or splashing from the top right towards the bottom left.

26 Ways to Save Water & Money



SAVE
WATER

NOTHING CAN REPLACE IT
DALLAS WATER UTILITIES

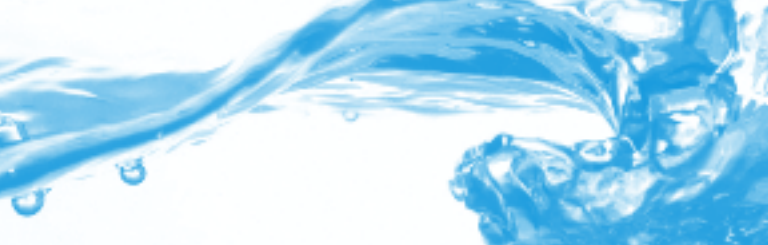


Water – with the turn of a handle, we get as much as we want, whenever we want it. So it's easy to forget that water is a carefully prepared product that must be purchased like any other. And whether it's used efficiently or wasted, we pay for every drop of water that flows through our meter.

But wasting water has another environmental impact - the additional energy required to treat and pump water into our homes. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that if one percent of American homes switched to water-efficient fixtures, we could save about 100 million kWh of electricity per year and avoid 80,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That is equivalent to removing nearly 15,000 automobiles from our roads for a year.

We can't control the amount of water we truly need, but we can control how much we waste. There are many ways to use water efficiently by making a few simple changes in how we use it.

By using the tips in this brochure you'll help preserve a valuable resource and you'll save save hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water a year. And those gallons add up to energy and money saved!



1 *Consider replacing your old toilet with a new high efficiency toilet (HET).* Did you know that in most homes, toilets use more water than anything else indoors? Toilets installed before 1992 use between 3 and 7 gallons per flush. The new HETs use 1.28 gallons per flush, saving an average of 4,200 gallons per person per year! City of Dallas Water Utilities customers may be eligible for a voucher toward the replacement of up to two toilets per household. For more information, visit SaveDallasWater.com.

2 *Check for and repair toilet leaks.* Toilets are notorious for their leaks, sometimes wasting as much as 200 gallons of water a day. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the bowl shows traces of food coloring 10 or 15 minutes later (without flushing), you have a leak. Toilet flapper valves should be checked at least once a year. Replacing a flapper valve is very simple, however, it is very important that the valve is the correct replacement size for your toilet. The wrong size valve can significantly reduce a toilet's efficiency.

3 *Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.* Every time you flush the toilet to dispose of cigarette butts, tissue, bugs or bits of trash, you are wasting water.

4 *Repair leaking faucets and shower-heads.* A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. Simply replacing a washer can stop most dripping faucets.

5 *Take shorter showers.* At five to 10 gallons a minute, a 10-minute shower can use as much as 100 gallons of water. Try to gradually shorten your showers by 1 minute. Aim to limit your shower time to 5 minutes or less.



6 *Install water-saving showerheads.* Look for an Environmental Protection Agency *WaterSense* branded low-flow showerhead that uses 2 gallons per minute or less. These inexpensive, easy-to-install showerheads can reduce water use by more than 50 percent and still provide an invigorating shower. In addition to reducing your water bill, you'll save on energy costs from your water heater as well.

7 *Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.* Up to five gallons of water a minute goes down the drain when taps are left running. Instead, wet your toothbrush, then fill a glass with the water you need for rinsing. And when shaving, collect a small amount of warm water in the sink and rinse your razor there instead of under a running faucet.

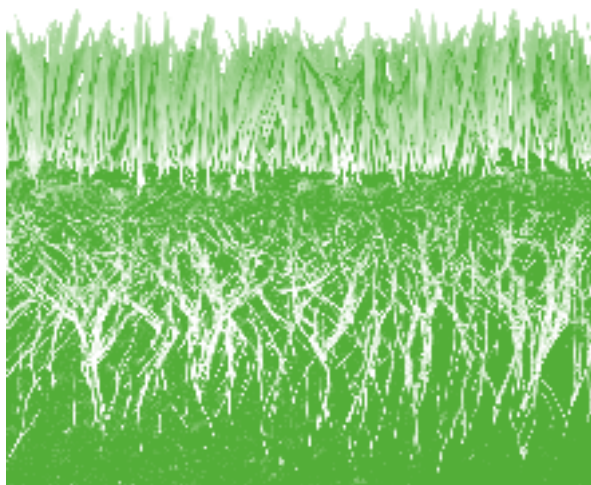
8 *Install faucet aerators.* Aerators are inexpensive and can reduce the amount of water used by up to 50 percent. It's estimated that faucets use 10 gallons per person per day, so an aerator could save 1,825 gallons per year per person.

9 *Wash only full loads in your washing machine.* Top-loading clothes washers use 30 to 40 gallons of water for each load of laundry. If you must wash just a few things, be sure to use the setting for smaller loads.

10 *Consider an appliance upgrade.* Replace your old clothes washer with a new front-loading model. These efficient washers only use 12 to 15 gallons per load and extract more water from your wet laundry, which also saves energy costs in the dryer.

11 *Wait until the dishwasher is full before you run a load.* The average dishwasher uses about 15 gallons of water each time they are run.

12 *Never pour grease or oil down a drain.* Besides potentially clogging the drain, you'll use a great deal of water trying to wash the grease out of the pipes. Pouring grease down the drain can also cause a sewer problem for you and your neighbors.



13 *Water your lawn efficiently.* Water **deeply and infrequently** to help your lawn develop a deep and healthy root system. Turf with a shallow root system is much more susceptible to diseases, pests, freezing and drought. Lawns with deep roots are much healthier and require less water.

14 *Water only when your lawn begins to show signs of stress.* Look for faint discoloration, wilting or footprints that remain visible after someone has walked across it. Most people significantly over-water their landscapes. Depending on soil conditions, one to one-and-a-half inches of water once a week is all most Texas grasses need.

15 *Use practical turf areas.* Grass usually needs more water than any other part of the landscape. Think about how you will use the area to determine if grass is the best choice. In some cases ground covers, shrubs, a deck or a patio may work better.

16 *Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground.* Some sprinklers, especially those that throw mist or small droplets of water high in the air, lose as much as 50 percent to evaporation and wind.

17 *Use mulches to conserve water and slow weed growth.* Mulch will protect the soil from heat and the sun and will also help retain the water you give your landscape. Organic mulches (such as shredded cypress or cedar, composted leaves, shredded landscape clippings, etc.) will also break down to become compost which provides nourishment for your plants.

18 *Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation* for shrubs, trees and plantings. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation put the water into the soil instead of on the leaves and in the air.



19 *Plant native or adapted plants.* These plants love our Texas heat and can thrive with little or no supplemental water once established. In addition to being Texas tough, they are beautiful! Visit SaveDallasWater.com to learn more about native plants and Water-Wise gardening. Also consider going on our annual Water-Wise Tour the first Saturday of June or coming to one of our free Water-Wise Landscape Seminars.

20 *Water lawns, gardens and landscapes early in the morning when evaporation rates are at their lowest.* When watering during the heat of the day, you can lose 40 to 60 percent of the water to evaporation. And please remember that the Dallas City Ordinance prohibits watering with sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 to October 31. Soaker hoses and hand watering are allowed at any time.

21 *Keep an eye on your automatic sprinkler system.* Be sure that all the sprinkler heads are in good working order and that your system has no leaks. As a service to our customers, Dallas Water Utilities conducts **FREE** automatic irrigation system check-ups. A licensed irrigator will recommend an efficient watering schedule for your particular situation, as well as helping to find leaks and any other system problems. There is no obligation to implement their recommendations, but some customers have saved hundreds of dollars on their water bills. For more information or to schedule your automatic sprinkler system check-up, call (214) 670-3155 or go to SaveDallasWater.com.

22 *Hand water in areas that need more frequent watering.* Group plants that need more water close to your outdoor faucet so you may give additional water only to those that need it. Hand watering is also the most efficient way to water plants near walks or driveways or in especially hot, sunny spots.

23 *Don't water streets, sidewalks or driveways.* This wasteful practice is also against Dallas City Ordinance. Be sure to place your sprinklers carefully and watch for run-off. Some of our dense soils may not be able to absorb all the water it needs in one application.



24 *Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks. You'll save water and get a little exercise too.*

25 *Use a spray nozzle with an automatic shut-off to wash your car or bathe your pets. A continuously running hose can dispense up to 75 gallons of water in just 15 minutes.*

26 *When eating out, encourage restaurants to serve water only on request. Each glass of water served requires the equivalent of two glasses to wash it for the next use.*



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SaveDallasWater.com



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