

Eighteen Tips that Reduce Water Use and Cost

by Rich Krueger

1. Take shorter showers for every minute we reduce time in the shower we save 3 gallons of water. Of course we also save the cost of either gas or electric to heat the water. At the same time we save on the sewer bill.
- 2 Wash laundry in cold water. Wash only full loads.
- 3 Turn the water heater down to 120 degrees or low.
- 4 To flush sediment from the water heater periodically drain approximately 10-15 gals from it.
- 5 Plug the drain when washing up or shaving.
- 6 Shower, don't bathe. A bath tub full of hot water holds at least 10 gallons more than the 15 gallons used for a 5 minute shower.
- 7 Replace old showerheads with low flow models.
- 8 Insulate hot water pipes.
- 9 Install low flow faucet aerators.
- 10 Repair leaky faucets.
- 11 Insulate the water heater.
- 12 If you have a dishwasher use it, but only when it is full.
- 13 Run the dish washer on the shortest possible cycle.
- 14 Scrape dishes before you put them in the dishwasher, do not rinse them.
- 15 Use water heater blankets to conserve gas or electric.
- 16 When using small amounts of water in the kitchen use cold water.
- 17 When doing dishes in the kitchen sink fill the sink with warm soapy water to wash. Drain the water and fill with fresh warm water to rinse. Allow the dishes to air dry.
- 18 A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day.