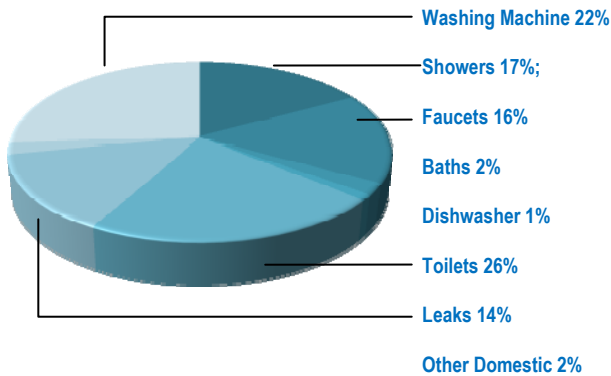


The graph below illustrates average indoor water use in a non-conserving North-American home.²



WATER:

A Precious Resource

Water is a basic building block of life yet we often take it for granted. Modern plumbing brings water to our homes and businesses, often giving the impression that we have an endless supply of water. However, the amount of water on the planet is finite.

Approximately 3% of the earth's water supply is fresh but less than one third of 1% is available for human use!

As water users, we must preserve our water supply so it will be available today and for generations to come. Water conservation allows us to use water more efficiently and reduce water waste. ***Making a habit of conservation makes sense.***

This pamphlet provides a few tips on how to conserve water in your home. For more information on water conservation, please contact your local water utility or visit www.preservingeverydrop.com.



Water Use Basics

In DuPage County, the average person:

- **Uses 106 gallons of water each day.¹**
- **Approximately 69% of this water is used inside the home for daily tasks.²**

Do you know how much water we use for daily tasks? Here are some numbers to be your guide.

- A five-minute shower uses approximately 25 gallons (calculated at 5 gallons a minute). Install a low-flow shower head to reduce water use to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- A typical full bathtub can hold 35 gallons of water.
- A toilet uses 3.5 to 6 gallons of water per flush depending on how old it is; a new toilet only uses 1.6 gallons per flush or less!
- Running water continuously while brushing your teeth can use 1 - 3 gallons of water per minute, depending on the flow rate of the faucet.
- An automatic clothes washer uses 30-60 gallons of water for a full cycle.

¹ Summary of data from DWC and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Data does not include unaccounted for flow values for Argonne or IAWC.

² Vickers, Amy. "Handbook of Water Use and Conservation" WaterPlow Press, 2001. Data based on average indoor use in a non-conserving home – 69.3 gallons per capita per day.



Getting Started



Leak Control

- Check for hidden leaks in your water system. Turn off all faucets in and around your house, then check the reading on your water meter. Wait 15 minutes without turning any water on, then check the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow leak can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you will save about 6,000 gallons a year.
- Check for leaks in the toilet using a toilet leak detection kit.



Shower Time!

- Put timers in your family bathrooms to encourage shorter showers. Reducing your time in the shower by one minute will save hundreds of gallons per household each month.



Think at the Sink

- Limit water waste at the sink by running water just to wet and rinse the toothbrush instead of allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth. Apply the same idea when washing your hands.
- Men should turn off the water while they shave. Running water faucets use 1.5 - 7 gallons per minute (depending on the age of the faucet).
- In the kitchen, fill a basin or the sink with soapy water instead of letting the water run continuously when washing dishes by hand. Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.

Dive in Deeper



Washing Machine

- Wash only full loads of clothes and use the coldest setting possible. This approach saves water and energy.
- Match the load setting with the amount of laundry to be washed if you must wash partial loads.



Dishwasher

- Only run the dishwasher when it's full. Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads.
- Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing them and limit pre-rinsing of dishes if you are using the dishwasher.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal; compost food scraps or toss them in the garbage bin instead.



Toilet

- Check your toilets for leaks and repair any that you find. Replace the older toilets in your home with low flow toilets.

Preserving Every Drop



Upgrade with Efficiency

- Replace water wasting appliances with energy efficient ones - Energy Star approved laundry machines and dishwashers save a significant amount of water and energy.



Water Saving Fixtures

- Replace older, high-volume flushing toilets with WaterSense or low-flow versions.
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets.
- Replace older shower heads with new low-flow models.



Save the leftovers!

- Rinse fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water rather than running the faucet. Use the leftover water to water household plants.
- Place a bucket in the shower to collect water while it heats up. Use the water on plants or to flush the toilet.

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