



Water Wisdom

Fast Facts and Helpful Hints on Household Water Use

SHOWERING: use 5 gallons/minute. How long are YOUR showers?

- **Try this...**Get wet, turn off the water, lather up, then turn on the water to rinse. Do the same when you wash your hands.

AT THE SINK: at 5 gallons/minute, running water for teeth brushing or washing and rinsing dishes uses a lot of water!

- **Try this** in the kitchen... Use two dish tubs, one for soapy water and the other for rinse water. When you finish with the dishes use the “gray water” for watering outdoor plants, shrubs or trees. (No, the soap won’t hurt them.)

Preserve Water for All Earth’s Beings

- Fix leaky taps or toilets immediately. A slow leak can waste 15-20 gallons/day. Multiply this over a month or six...yep, a lot of water!

TOILET FLUSHING: up to 6 gallons/flush. Go ahead and replace old toilets with new low-volume flush toilets that use 1.7 gallons/flush. (Contrary to common belief, the newer models work very well!)

- **Try this...**flush the toilet less often.

APPLIANCES: Wash only FULL loads of clothes and dishes in your automatic washers. If you can, replace aging models with newer energy efficient models that use much less water. Front loading clothes washers can save the most water.

OUTDOORS

- Use buckets for car washing.
- Use the old water for watering outdoor plants.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than spraying them down with a hose.

IN THE YARD AND GARDEN

- Mow the grass at a 2-3 inch height instead of at “golf-course” length. This will reduce the amount of evaporation and the amount of water needed.
- Let the grass go dormant (brown) during hot, dry weather. It will green up again once the weather changes.
- Mulch around all plants, flowers, garden vegetables, shrubs and trees to conserve water evaporation and cut down or completely eliminate the need to water.
- **Try this...***Install a rain barrel to catch runoff from your house or garage. Use this to water outdoor plants.
- **Try this...***plant a rain garden. These gardens allow water to infiltrate the ground recharging underground water sources.

ANY WHERE YOU ARE: Eat more vegetarian meals. Water use is cut in half with a vegetarian diet when you consider the amount of water needed to raise animals for food.

** Plans available at the Center for Earth Spirituality & Rural Ministry*

From the
**CENTER FOR EARTH SPIRITUALITY
& RURAL MINISTRY**

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Earth Education



Preserve

Preserve Water for All Earth's Beings

“Water promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th—the precious commodity that determines the wealth of nations.”

—Fortune Magazine, May 2000

Access to safe and affordable drinking water is a human right and should not be subject to corporate privatization. It has been and should remain a common good based **not** on willingness and ability to pay. Water is life.

REGARDING BOTTLED WATER

Did you know?

- 25% of bottled water is actually tap water? ¹
- 9 out of 10 plastic water bottles end up as garbage or litter? ²
- Bottled water costs on average almost a thousand times as much as the water from your tap? ³

1,2,3, www.sierraclub.org/cac/water

BOTTLED WATER

- **Try this...**When you are thirsty turn on the tap rather than buy a bottle of water.
- When you travel bring an empty, reusable water bottle to refill along the way.
- If you have concerns about local water quality buy the best possible water filter rather than buy gallon containers of water and make sure your local water authority is doing its job to provide good quality water.
- Take a bottled water challenge. Have a friend fill identical cups with water from the tap, and from a couple of brand name waters without telling you which one is which. Taste them to see if you can identify each.

“There is no resource that is more essential to biodiversity, social and economic development—and indeed, civilization itself—than water. Growing scarcity and widespread misuse of water pose a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and all aspects of human health and welfare, food security, industrial development and the ecosystem on which these all depends.”

—Steven Schrybman, 2000.
“The Citizen’s Guide to the WTO.”
Toronto:CCPA/Lorimer

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