



WATER EFFICIENCY AT HOME

Water is one of Ohio’s most abundant natural resources, but we should not take it for granted. Water is essential to all human activities - it is used daily to drink, cook, and clean; essential for recreation; used for agriculture; and generates electricity and to manufacture products.

To ensure adequate quantities to support all uses, water must be withdrawn from its source no faster than it can be replenished. Efficient water use minimizes water withdrawals and increases the benefit from each gallon of water used.

Saving water is cost effective in addition to protecting our water resources and the environment. This factsheet highlights some ways you and your family can improve water use efficiency in your own home and decrease water waste.



ELIMINATE WATER WASTE

BATHROOM

- Take shorter showers and save 5-7 gallons of water a minute.
- Only fill the bath halfway to save 10-15 gallons of water.
- Don’t use the toilet as a trashcan.
- Turn off the water while shaving, washing, & brushing your teeth.

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Keep a jug filled with water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run for cool drinking water.
- Think before you wash and dry clothes – only wash full loads, use cold water, and use a clothing rack to air-dry clothes.
- Running the dishwasher only when it’s full can save nearly 320 gallons of water annually.

OUTDOORS

- Raise the mower deck to increase grass height so that grass roots grow deeper and survive better without water.
- Only water lawn if necessary – apply at most 1” of water.
- Choose native plants that are adapted to local conditions as they require far less water.
- Collect rainwater for irrigation.
- Only water landscaping in the morning or evening.
- Don’t use water to clean the sidewalk or driveway - sweep them clean.
- Use a self-closing nozzle on your hose.

EVERYWHERE

- REPAIR LEAKS – household leaks are most often found at sink faucets and bathroom toilets and can account for as much as 20% of the average household’s water use. Leaking fixtures can usually be quickly and inexpensively repaired.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Don’t let the water run – turn off the faucet when not needed during food prep, shaving, and washing.
- Take care of your furnace and air conditioning units to increase efficiency.
- Turn down the thermostat and turn up the air conditioning.



INSTALL WATER CONSERVING FIXTURES

Water efficient products can help your wallet and the environment while maintaining exceptional performance. A good way to start is by looking at [WaterSense](#) products sponsored by the US EPA.



- Using efficient showerheads can save at least 4 gallons of water every time you shower.
- Replacing old, inefficient faucets and aerators with WaterSense-labeled models can save 700 gallons of water/year.
- Replacing aerators on existing bathroom faucets is about 30% more efficient while still providing sufficient flow.
- High-efficiency clothes washers use less than half the water of regular washers. Washing full loads increases efficiency.
- Water efficient dishwashers use 3.2 gallons/load compared to the 6 gallons of water used washing dishes by hand.

ODNR CONTACT AND LINKS

[ODNR Division of Water Resources Water Conservation webpages:](#)

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/water-resources/water-conservation>

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SCAN FOR ODNR
WATER CONSERVATION
WEBPAGES &
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