



## Residential Water Usage Facts

Believe it or not, the average water usage per person is 100 gallons per day or 3000 gallons per month!

Here's how...

- The average toilet uses 3.5 gallons of water per flush
- A five-minute shower can use 25 to 50 gallons of water
- The average bath takes about 36 gallons of water
- Automatic dishwashers (short cycle) uses 7 gallons per cycle
- Washing machines use an average of 41 gallons to wash and rinse
- Outdoor watering with an average hose uses 10 gallons per minute
- Brushing teeth and rinsing uses ½ gallon
- Shaving using a filled sink basin is approximately 1 gallon
- Dishwashing and rinsing in the sink averages 5 gallons

The above usage is calculated minimally. You can count on using quite a bit more if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth, shaving, washing the dishes, using old toilets that require more water, running the dishwasher and washing machines on longer cycles and filling the bath tub to the top. Even a small leak can add up to 25 gallons per day!

Resources: US Environmental Protection Agency (Water Sense)

*Remember, water is not cheap or limitless. Please use this natural resource wisely and save on your water bill.*

### Water Saving Tips

- Take shorter showers/use less water in the bathtub
- Turn the water off while brushing teeth or washing hands
- Use a broom to clean the driveway instead of a hose.
- Use a layer of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation
- Install EPA approved aerators on faucets and low-flow showerheads
- Check all water fixtures for leaks and make repairs
- Check for leaking toilets (see test below)
- Water the lawn early in the morning or late evening to reduce water loss due to evaporation
- Check irrigation systems for underground leaks

### To Check for a Leaking Toilet

1. Add food coloring until the water in the **tank** is a dark color.
2. Wait 30 minutes (without using the toilet).
3. If any of the dye has entered the bowl in that time, the toilet is leaking and needs to be repaired.