

# The Do's and Don'ts of Water Conservation

Delaware River Basin residents can save hundreds of gallons of water every week by following these water-saving tips:

## BATHROOM

**Do** take shorter showers & save 3-5 gallons every minute.

**Do** fill the tub halfway & save 10-15 gallons.

**Do** install water-saving toilets, shower heads, and faucet aerators. Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank if you can't switch to a low flow toilet.

**Don't** run the water while shaving, washing your hands, or brushing your teeth. Faucets use 2-3 gallons/minute.

**Don't** use the toilet as a wastebasket & don't flush it unnecessarily.

## EVERYWHERE

**Do** check your water meter or bill to see how much water you are using. A good rule of thumb is 50-60 gallons/day/person.

**Do** repair leaky faucets & turn taps off tightly. Slow drips waste 15-20 gallons/day.

## KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

**Do** run the dishwasher & washing machine only when full. Save even more water by using the short cycle.

**Do** install front-loading washing machines, which reduce water usage by about 40 percent.

**Don't** let the water run while washing dishes.

## OUTDOOR

**Do** use a self-closing nozzle on your hose.

**Do** position your downspouts so rain water runs onto the lawn or into the garden, not down the driveway.

**Do** plant drought-resistant trees/flowers and use mulch to keep the soil moist.


**Don't** water lawns during the heat of the day.


**Don't** use water to clean sidewalks or driveways -- sweep them instead.


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# Did You Know???


 **U**p to 90 percent of water used to sprinkle lawns can be lost through evaporation from soil and plants.

 **A**pproximately two-thirds of residential interior water use is for toilet flushing and bathing. The use of water-saving toilets, shower heads, and faucet aerators can cut this usage in half.

 **A** garden hose discharges up to six-and-a-half gallons of water per minute under standard household water pressure.

 **H**ot water leaks not only are a waste of water, but a waste of the energy (and money) used to heat that water.

 **A** top-loading clothes washer uses between 40 and 55 gallons of water per load. Front-loading models reduce water usage by about 40 percent. Make sure they're full before turning them on.

 **A** dishwasher uses between eight and 12 gallons of water per load. Again, only run full loads.

**Water conservation is a smart investment  
not only for now, but for the future ...**

**Please make it a lifelong habit!**

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