

Water Conservation

Do you know how much water you use? A surprising fact is the Earth's surface is about 80 percent water, which equates to approximately 362,000,000,000,000 (362 trillion gallons). Of these 362 trillion gallons, only 3 percent or 10 trillion gallons are fresh water. Most of this fresh water is stored in glaciers and it leaves us with about two trillion gallons of fresh water for six billion people.

The USA processes and uses 367 billion gallons of water per day. An average person uses 123 gallons of water a day, paying 25 cents for it, a total of 225 billion dollars a month.

Another surprising fact is the amount of water needed to produce household products. A new car you need approximately 40 thousand gallons of water. It takes 500 gallons of water to produce a new tire.

A typical eight person Thanksgiving dinner may take as much as 42 thousand gallons of water to grow and prepare the food. It takes around 110 gallons to produce one egg. To process one chicken it takes 12 gallons of water. To process a can of vegetables it takes 10 gallons; one barrel of beer uses 1500 gallons. To make one ton of granulated sugar from beet sugar it takes 33,000 gallons of water. To make one board foot of lumber it takes six gallons of water. A pound of plastic uses 24 gallons, a pound of wool or a pound of cotton takes 100 gallons of water. To refine one barrel of crude oil 2000 gallons and to produce one ton of steel it uses 63 thousand gallons of water!

Are there any ways to save water besides not buying cars, clothes and food? YES! There are certain methods you can take to conserve water in and out of your home. Most of these are helped by devices that use less water than those made when there were not water conservation problems.

Ineffective conservation utilities:

- Toilet 7 gallons
- Shower 9 gal/min
- Dishwasher 12 gallons
- Top Loading washer 25 gallons
- Hand washed dishes 20 gallons
- Running Tap 5 gal/min
- Running hose 25 gal/min
- Watering sprinkler 15 gal/min

Your toilet is the utility in your home that takes as much as 40 to 50 percent of your daily water usage. If you have a leaking faucet that drips once every other second, it is possible that you are wasting 84 gallons per month and around 1000 gallons per year.

If you purchase a water saving toilet that flushes only 1.5 or 2 gallons per flush then you can save 100 – 200 gallons of water per day. It is possible to use only half of the water you already do by purchasing and using low-flow devices.

Low-Flow Utilities:

- Toilet 1.5 gallons
- Shower 3 gal/min

Dishwasher 6 gal/min
H-series washer 15 gallons
Sink faucets 2 gal/min
Hose faucets 10 gal/min
Sprinkler 9 gal/min.