

WATER CONSERVATION

Bathroom Conservation

With water conservation efforts under way in parts of Oklahoma, here are a few water conservation tips from the Department of Environmental Quality.

The most substantial reduction in personal water use can be made in the bathroom. Two-thirds of the water used in the average home is used in the bathroom, because many people take long showers or flush the toilet unnecessarily. Water conservation not only saves water, it saves energy used to heat the water.



Bathroom Tips

- Check the toilet for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you know you have a leak that needs to be repaired.
- Don't use the toilet for disposing of cigarette butts or other trash. Use the garbage can.
- Most toilets use between 1.6 to 7 gallons of water for every flush. If you have a toilet manufactured before January 1994, it is using 3.5-7 gallons of water per flush.
- To cut down on water used per flush by older model toilets, put plastic bottles filled with sand in your toilet tank. Place them safely away from the operating mechanism. (Do not use bricks, which disintegrate after a while and damage the mechanism.) Do not use this method for toilets that use 1.6 gallons or less to prevent proper toilet function.
- When replacing fixtures, install water conserving models. The price is about the same and it will save you money on your water bill.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Your local hardware or plumbing supply stores stock inexpensive water-saving shower heads or restrictors that are easy to install.
- Limit the length of showers to 2 or 3 minutes. Consider turning the shower off while you soap up and turn it on again only to rinse.
- Rinse your razor in a few inches of water in the sink, rather than under running water.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. Use only enough water to wet the brush and rinse your mouth.
- Teach children to turn faucets off tightly after use.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small leak can waste thousands of gallons per month. Keep faucet washers in good shape or use washerless faucets.