

Household Conservation Tips – Indoor

- Check home fixtures for leaks. If you have a high water bill and think there may be an underground leak, call Public Utilities (434-9959) for a free leak check.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth, washing your face or hands, and shaving.
- Replace old washing machines with a horizontal-axis machine that uses less water and energy. Wrap hot water heaters and pipes with insulating material.
- Avoid running the tap for a cold drink. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator.
- Install faucet aerators, which reduce wastewater by mixing water and air.
- Take showers rather than baths.
- Limit showers to once a day for five minutes and do not fill bathtubs more than 1/3 full for baths.
- While showering, turn off the water when soaping up.
- Do not use your toilet as a trash can. Throw things away instead of flushing them down the drain.
- If your home is more than five years old, the chances are your toilet is using more water than necessary and could operate with less water. To lower the amount of water used for each flush, you need to displace water in the toilet tank. Two ways to displace water are listed below.
- Place toilet dams in the tank. They hold back water and prevent it from leaving the tank. Dams can be purchased at your local hardware store.
- Use pop bottles or a plastic jug to displace the water in your tank so that there is less water flowing into the bowl. Fill the bottle with water or place rocks in the bottom of the container for weight.
- Install a low-flow showerhead to reduce water use. To check the flow rate of your existing showerhead, turn the shower on all the way and see how long it takes to fill a one-gallon bucket. If your showerhead fills a one-gallon container in less than 15 seconds, it is using more than 4 gallons per minute (gpm) of water. When buying a showerhead, be sure that it delivers no more than 2 1/2 gallons per minute; 1 1/2 to 2 gpm is even better.
- Do not use a garbage disposal.
- Do not rinse dishes prior to putting them into an automatic dishwasher. Instead, wipe them with paper napkins from the meal or use a partially filled sink to do any necessary pre-washing.
- Run the dishwasher (and washing machine) only when they are full.
- If washing dishes by hand, rinse them in a half-full basin or pan instead of under running water.
- Dispose of paper and excess food in the garbage rather than the garbage disposal. Garbage disposals may add 50 percent to the volume of solids in a septic tank, which can lead to malfunctions and maintenance problems.
- Fill the washing machine with a full load of laundry. If your machine has a water level selector, make sure it is always set to match the amount of laundry being washed.