



# Save water - and save on your water bill

## Where is your water going?

### Household appliances – average use

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Shower – standard showerhead..... | 5 gallons per min.  |
| Shower – low-flow showerhead..... | 2 gallons per min.  |
| Toilet – standard.....            | 5 gallons per flush   |
| Toilet – low-volume.....          | 1.6 gallons per flush   |
| Clothes washer .....              | 55 gallons per load   |
| Energy Star clothes washer.....   | 18-25 gallons per load  |
| Dishwasher (non Energy Star)..... | 15 gallons per load   |
| Energy Star dishwasher.....       | ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers typically use 40% less water than non-qualified models. |

### Average daily water use per household (in gallons):

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Chelan County PUD water systems ..... | 250 |
| Peak PUD use (summer) .....           | 500 |
| City of Wenatchee.....                | 250 |
| National average.....                 | 350 |

**Daily indoor water use per person in the typical single family home is 69.3 gallons (national average). Here is how it breaks down:**

| Use                 | Gallons per Person | Percentage of Total Daily Use |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Showers             | 11.6               | 16.8%                         |
| Clothes Washers     | 15.0               | 21.7%                         |
| Dishwashers         | 1.0                | 1.4%                          |
| Toilets             | 18.5               | 26.7%                         |
| Baths               | 1.2                | 1.7%                          |
| Leaks               | 9.5                | 13.7%                         |
| Faucets             | 10.9               | 15.7%                         |
| Other Domestic Uses | 1.6                | 2.2%                          |

By installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, households can reduce daily per capita water use by about 35 percent to about 45.2 gallons per day





## How to save

**You can get the biggest water savings in your home by installing efficient fixtures and fixing leaks**

- **Toilets.** Replacing toilets installed before 1994 can save you more than \$1,000 in water and sewer charges over the next 10 years.
- **Clothes washers.** Replacing a conventional top-loading washer with an Energy Star machine can save thousands of gallons of water a year. Plus, they are gentler on clothes, reduce drying time, and require less detergent.
- **Showers.** Install a showerhead flowing at 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
- **Faucets.** Use 1.0 gpm bath aerators and 2.0 gpm kitchen aerators.
- **Dishwashers.** Look for Energy Star models. They usually save both water and energy. Unless you are very frugal with water use, dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand.

**In addition to upgrading your fixtures, taking actions to conserve will help reduce your water use.**

- **Fix leaking faucets and toilets.** Even if you can't hear your toilet "running," there's a good chance water is silently leaking from the tank into the bowl -- and down the drain. All toilets eventually waste water as the parts in the tank wear out. To check for leaks inside your toilet, try the quick and easy food color test: Remove the tank lid. Put 5-10 drops of food coloring in the tank. Put lid back on but don't flush it yet. After about 10 minutes, look in the bowl. If you see color, you have a leak.
- **Wash full loads of laundry and dishes** to save water, energy and time. Research shows that many people under-fill their clothes washer by 30 percent. Try adding a few more items to the load and see if you're satisfied with the results.
- **Minimize faucet use** when brushing your teeth, shaving and washing dishes.
- **Don't pre-rinse dishes** unless you need to. Most new dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.
- **Save lukewarm water** for watering plants and other uses while you wait for hot water in kitchens and showers.
- **Shorten your showers** by a minute or two and save up to 1,800 gallons per person each year.
- **Take showers** instead of baths and save up to 40 gallons each time.

## Outdoor savings

- **Don't over-water your lawn.** Only water every three to five days in the summer and 10 to 14 days in the winter.
- **To prevent water loss** from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.
- **Use a broom,** rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- **If you have a swimming pool,** get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- **Choose Xeriscape™** drought-tolerant landscaping.

### For more information

Chelan County PUD • (509) 661-8008 • [www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation.html](http://www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation.html)

Energy Star – [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) • American Water Works Association - [www.awwa.org/waterwiser/](http://www.awwa.org/waterwiser/)

Water Use It Wisely - [www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml) • Saving Water Partnership - [www.savingwater.org/index.htm](http://www.savingwater.org/index.htm)

Sources: *Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, Amy Vickers; American Water Works Association; Saving Water Partnership*