

Ways to save at home: Water

Save On Your Water Bill



Ways To Save Water & Money

Tacoma Water Conservation

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(253) 502-8723

Saving water helps you save money on your utility bill. We have a few ideas for you.

- High efficiency, 1.28 gallons or less per flush: \$3.77
- Standard, 1.6 gallons per flush: \$4.71
- Model from 1980-1994, 3.5 gallons per flush: \$10.30

Watering & Yard Care

During the summer, water demand in our service area increases by about 60%, mostly due to outdoor water use. A 1,000-square-foot lawn being overwatered for 30 minutes each day for a week can cost you an extra \$13.82 each month. That same lawn, watered just one inch per week with proper irrigation design will cost you just \$6.41 a month.

[Learn More About Efficiently Caring for Your Yard.](#)

Showerheads

You can reduce your hot water use just by switching to an efficient showerhead. By installing efficient showerheads, a family of four could save 3,600 gallons of water and \$60 in utility costs per year. New, efficient showerheads use 1.5 to 2 gallons of water per minute, while showerheads manufactured before 1994 use 2.75 to 8 gallons per minute.

Free Items From Tacoma Water

Tacoma Water customers can call (253) 502-8723 to get efficient showerheads, aerators, shower timers and leak detector dye tablets for your toilets - all free of charge.

Leaks

More than one trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes each year from easy-to-fix leaks. A leak at a rate of one drop per second can cost you an extra \$1.38 per month, while a leaking water pipe wasting 250 gallons per day can cost you an extra \$54.62 per month.

[Learn More About Finding and Fixing Leaks.](#)

Toilets

High efficiency toilets use 1.28 gallons of water per flush, while older models use between 3.5 and 7 gallons per flush. The average household could save up to 2,400 gallons per month by replacing an older toilet with a newer, efficient model.

How good is your toilet? Here's the cost per month for several options:

- Model from 1950-1980, 5 gallons per flush: \$14.71

When shopping, [Look for the WaterSense Label.](#)

How does your shower rate? See some of the ways your showerhead can cost you:

- Efficient, 2 gallons per minute, 5-minute shower: \$3.89 per month
- Efficient, 2 gallons per minute, 8.2-minute shower: \$6.38 per month
- Model from 1950-1994, 3 gallons per minute, 8.2-minute shower: \$9.58

We can help you save money when you [Buy an Efficient Showerhead](#).

Faucets

Faucet aerators screw on to the end of your faucet and mix air with the water flow to reduce water use. Faucets with aerators can use as little as 0.5 gallons of water per minute, while typical faucets without aerators use 2.5 to 7 gallons per minute. An efficient faucet using .5 gallons per minute will cost you 80 cents per month, while a standard faucet using 2.5 gallons per minute can cost you \$3.99 per month.

Dishwasher

Newer, more efficient dishwashers use 4.5 gallons of water per cycle, compared with older models that can use up to 14. The efficient dishwasher will cost you 58 cents per month, while a standard dishwasher using 9 gallons per load can cost you \$1.15 per month. Make the most of each load by filling the dishwasher to capacity. If you wash dishes by hand, fill the sink and add soap rather than running the water as you wash.

Clothes Washer

The average household washes 300 loads of laundry each year. Efficient clothes washers use 10 gallons of water per load, while standard models can use up to 40 gallons per load. Switching to a high-efficiency clothes washer will reduce your water use by 75%.

See how different clothes washers stack up:

- Efficient, 10 gallons per load: \$1.99 per month
- Efficient, 21 gallons per load: \$4.17 per month
- Standard, 41 gallons per load: \$8.15 per month

Additional Resources & Information

- [Visit Home Water Works](#) to find out how much water your home uses. This quick and easy water calculator shows you which water uses in your home are efficient, which aren't and offers simple conservation tips that save water and energy.
- [Read Our Know Your H2O Guide](#).
- [Visit The EnviroHouse](#) to see natural landscape ideas and examples of efficient fixtures.