

HOW TO SAVE WATER AND GO GREEN AT HOME

On average, Canadians use about 300 litres of water per person per day. This is twice as much as Europeans use and the second-highest consumption rate in the world.

- 1) **Swap a Leaky Head.** Check your showerheads for leaks; tighten or replace if needed. A dripping tap that leaks six drops a minute equals to 1,200 litres of water per year (or seven bathtubs). Bathing represents the second-largest water use in your home. Each year, Canadians see more than 15,000 litres per person go right down the drain. You can easily test how much water your showerhead is pushing out. If it fills a 3.75 litre bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a low-flow, high-efficiency model. Reducing your shower by two minutes can save 460 litres of water every month.
- 2) **Give your Faucet a Break.** Turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth can save 700 litres of water each month. Try the same thing when you are shaving. Plug the sink and fill it with a little warm water to rinse your razor instead using running water. This can save as much as 1,135 litres of water every month.
- 3) **Fix a Flat Flapper.** If your toilet is always running it is wasting 40 litres per hour. Replace the flapper as it is an easy, affordable DIY fix. To check for a leak: put a teaspoon of food colouring into the toilet tank then wait about 15 minutes (without flushing) to see whether it makes its way through to the bowl. If the water is coloured, you have a leak. The toilet is the biggest water user in most homes. If you swap out an older toilet that uses 20 litres per flush in favour of a low-flow or dual-flush model, a family of four can save up to 170,000 litres a year.
- 4) **Ditch the Disposal.** Choose a compost bin instead of an in-sink garbage disposal to reduce water waste.
- 5) **Skip the Rinse.** Wipe off excess food into a compost bin and skip the rinse before putting dirty plates into the dishwasher to save up to 75 litres of water per load. Energy- efficient dishwashers also use about 26,000 fewer litres of water per year than hand washing. Several models even feature soil sensors that cue the machine to use less water for dishes that are not as dirty.
- 6) **Go Tankless.** Consider converting to a tankless water heater, which can save water and reduce energy costs.
- 7) **Efficient but Still Effective.** Switching to a high efficiency washing machine can save you almost 23,000 litres of water every year. Wait until you have a full load before running the washing machine or use the water-saving settings that adjust load size on your machine.
- 8) **Do Not Get Overexposed.** Insulate any exposed pipes in the basement or attic so water heats up faster.
- 9) **Irrigating the Old-Fashioned Way.** Collect rainwater to use in your flower beds and vegetable garden.
- 10) **Water Smarter, Water Better.** Practice smart gardening by selecting drought-resistant plants, grouping plants with similar water needs together, and adjusting your lawn mower to a higher setting so grass roots can establish and retain water better. Set sprinklers to run in early morning to prevent evaporation from midday sun and wind.
- 11) **Go for A Clean Sweep.** Use a coarse broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, decks, and sidewalks to save 675 litres of water.

Sourced from multiple locations.