

Create ways to conserve water

1. **Do full loads of** laundry instead of smaller ones, and only wash it if it's dirty. We all know it's easier to throw it in the laundry basket then hang it back up.
2. **Collect the water that drains from your washing machine** to use on your vegetable garden.
3. Waiting for the water to get hot is a huge waste. **Capture the water for other uses**, such as cooking, cleaning, or watering the garden.
4. **Store drinking water in the refrigerator.** It will always be cold, and that way you aren't standing by the running tap waiting for the water to cool.
5. **Do your dishes by hand** in a small sink of water instead of using the dishwasher.
6. **Thaw meat in the refrigerator or a microwave** instead of running it under cold water.
7. **Strain the food that you cook in water into a bucket.** The starchy water from pasta, potatoes, corn, etc. are good for your veggie patch.
8. **Wash your veggies and fruits in a bucket.** Then, use the water leftover in your bucket to water your plants and garden.
9. **Find a cup or water bottle with old water? Use it** to keep your houseplants happy with a nice drink.
10. **Simplify your garden.** Pull out the plants that have run their course and are just sucking up valuable water from the ones that are still producing.
11. **Use mulch**, like straw or wood chips, to cover the soil around your veggies. This will help keep moisture from evaporating.
12. **Run your car through a car wash.** They recycle their water.
13. If you want to wash your car yourself, **park it on the grass so your lawn gets the runoff.**
14. **Flush your toilet less** as 30% of household water is flushed down the toilet. Or displace the water in your toilet tank with a container filled with water and a weight, such as pea gravel or sand. This can save half a gallon per flush.
15. **Put the plug in the tub when you shower** and re-use the water that you collect for your garden.
16. **Shower less!** Or at least, cut down your shower time. Limit your time with a cell phone timer or end your shower after two songs.
17. **Turn off the shower when you're lathering up.**
18. **Bath your toddler in a small tub outside** instead of filling your large, indoor one. Trust me, they'll think it's fun, uses much less water, and is easy to dump on your garden after.
19. **Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth and shaving.** Or better yet, fill a single cup of water to get the job done – no running water required.
20. **Fix any dripping taps.**
21. Switch to an **eco-friendly shower head.**
22. **Last but not least – collect rain water!** During a rainfall, get as many empty buckets, totes and bowls outside as you can! Or even better, purchase a rainwater collection system.