



Using Less Water

While it may seem obvious, using less water is the number one problem in most households. We let water run straight down the drain while doing dishes, warming up the shower, or brushing our teeth. If we all cut back on the waste that results from just those three things, we'd reduce demand significantly! Here are some other ways to curb water waste:

- Fill the sink and use the water to wash your face, brush your teeth or shave.
- Do the same with dishes: fill the sink and wash, then rinse. Scrape off dishes and pots by hand, don't use water to remove food.
- Instead of cooling water by letting it run, keep a jug of cold water in the fridge.
- Use a bowl of water and a brush to rinse vegetables, fruits, or other foods.
- Plug the drain before you start running water for a bath.
- If a bathroom on the far side of the house from the water heater takes a long time to get hot water, consider installing a small supplemental water heater in that bathroom. Or add a recirculator on your hot water system to keep hot water close at hand, instead of letting the faucet or shower run until it finally gets hot.
- Don't thaw food by putting it under running water. Use a microwave or the refrigerator.
- Do only full loads of laundry and dishes. Adjust your machine to match the capacity if you're doing a partial load.
- Soak pots and pans or other things with caked on food before washing. Do the same with grills, oven parts, or other hard-to-wash items. Use elbow grease and the right tool for the job.
- Use your discretion, and only flush the toilet when necessary.