



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Water Conservation Tips

The top five ways to conserve water:

- Water your lawn and garden in the evening or early morning. Avoid watering on windy days. Water in three ten-minute sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart to allow your lawn to better absorb moisture. Mulch your garden and flower beds to reduce evaporation.
- Reduce the amount of water used by your toilet. Older toilets (installed prior to 1994) use 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush and as much as 20 gallons per person per day. Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a one-gallon plastic jug of water, or two one-quart bottles, in the tank to reduce toilet flows. Replacing an old toilet with a new model can save a household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons of water per year.
- Take a quick shower rather than a bath. A quick shower could save as much as 20 gallons.
- Fix leaks. Dripping faucets and leaking toilets can cause the loss of 10 gallons of water per day. Leaky toilets can often be repaired by replacing the flapper. Dripping faucets can usually be repaired by replacing the rubber washer or O-ring inside the valve.
- Wash full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine. A full dishwasher is more water-efficient than washing the same load by hand.

Other ways that we can conserve water:

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving and save more than 5 gallons a day.
- Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce water usage.
- Don't let the hose run when washing your car. Use a bucket of water and sponge, then turn on the hose only to rinse.
- Don't run water from the faucet to get cold water. Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.
- Re-use all the water you can. Water from washing vegetables, leftover coffee, etc., can be used to water plants.

Always keep water conservation in mind. Look for other ways to save water. During a drought, water conservation is especially important.