

40 GALLON CHALLENGE

SAVE 40 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY
FOR YOUR COUNTY AND STATE

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

What is the 40 Gallon Challenge?

The 40 Gallon Challenge is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40 gallons per person, per day. The challenge began in 2011 as a voluntary campaign to increase water conservation.

How does it work?

The 40 Gallon Challenge encourages people to save a minimum of 40 gallons a day by adopting new water-saving techniques. The pledge card outlines water-saving practices and the daily water-savings to expect. You can use the pledge to review the water-saving practices that you or your family currently puts to use. By pledging new practices, you will see the total daily savings expected for your household. The 40 Gallon Challenge also provides maps and charts to see pledge activities in your state and across the United States.

Why should I conserve water?

Drought conditions, population growth and increasing water demands has put added stress on the water supply. By conserving water, these water demands and the demand for energy-intensive systems that obtain, treat, and distribute water are both decreased.

Why should I pledge to save at least 40 gallons?

Reducing water usage at home not only saves this precious resource, it also helps homeowners keep more money in their wallets. Saving a minimum of 40 gallons a day for 30 days adds up to more than 1,000 gallons per month. This is an easy way to document the amount of water saved since most water providers bill in thousand-gallon increments. In other words, you should see real savings on your water bill if you follow through with your pledge and put to use the recommended water-saving practices.

What if I am already using some of these water-saving practices?

First, thank you for conserving water! If you already use some of these practices, do not choose them in your pledge. Since you already implement a water-saving technique you already benefit from this particular task. For instance, if you are turning off the water when you brush your teeth, then you are already saving up to 8 gallons a day. Including this on your pledge would not truly give you water savings that you can see on your future utility bills.

What can I learn from the 40 Gallon Challenge maps and charts?

The 40 Gallon Challenge maps are a quick way to assess participation of each state and county in the challenge. States and counties are highlighted based on how many gallons their citizens have pledged. The 40 Gallon Challenge charts show the most popular practices being pledged, the pledged practices that are saving the most water daily, and counties that are pledging the most daily savings.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aide services or accommodations are encouraged to contact the Extension Office within 5 working days prior to the program.

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In addition to my existing water conservation practices or actions in the past, I pledge to:

Activity	Daily Savings	✓ Pledge
Indoors		
Run the dishwasher only when full.	2 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off water in between rinsing dishes.	5 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off water while brushing teeth.	8 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shorten showers by 2 minutes	5 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fill the bathtub half full for bathing.	18 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.	2 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash only full loads of laundry and cut back by one load per week.	5 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix a leaky faucet.	15 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix a leaky toilet.	30 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install 3 faucet aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen and/or bathroom faucets.	14 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase a new, more efficient clothes washer.	10 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace old, non-efficient toilet with new low-flush toilet.	8 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace old, non-efficient showerhead with low flow showerhead.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoors		
Make a compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.	4 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a 55-gallon rain barrel to capture rainwater for watering landscape or garden.	5 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.	22 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water landscape after midnight and before 10 a.m.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce irrigation runtimes by 2 minutes.	80 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliminate one irrigation cycle per week.	30 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjust sprinklers to reduce overspray onto sidewalks, driveways, etc.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair at least one pipe leak or broken sprinkler head.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add mulch (2"-3") around trees and plants (1,000 sq. ft.).	25 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install water-efficient drip irrigation system.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install a "smart irrigation controller" that adjusts for temperature and precipitation.	40 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use automatic car wash that recycles water instead of hand washing cars.	18 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace 1,000 sq. ft. of high water-use landscape with low water-use landscape.	40 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair at least one lead around pool or spa pump.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair any leaking hose bibs.	20 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation.	30 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install spa cover to reduce evaporation.	5 gallons	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Actual water savings from these actions depends on a number of factors, including a household's water pressure, number of residents, age/efficiency of plumbing devices, size of landscapes and irrigation systems, personal behaviors, etc. These daily estimates for an average household are provided solely as an educational guideline to help the public understand and appreciate the potential impact of these actions for saving water in their region.*

Please provide the following information:

County

Cass County, Texas

Email Address

May we use your email address to:

- Send a follow-up survey? Send an email reminder of your pledged activities? Send information about county extension activities?

Thank you for your commitment!

Please return pledge to your water billing department for the Cass County Extension Office