

# 100+ WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER

Every  
**Drop**  
counts

WATER SAVING TIP

#1

Washing only full loads of laundry can save an average household more than 3,400 gallons of water each year.



[www.centexsustains.org](http://www.centexsustains.org)

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

*There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.*

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#**2**

Water your yard thoroughly, but only as needed - usually no more than 1 inch, once a week.



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#3

Fix faucet leaks, which can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water a year.



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#**4**

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.



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#  
**5**

Try a shorter shower and save up to 4 gallons for every minute you cut back.



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**6**

Ensure sprinkler heads are facing towards grass and not pavement and fix any broken sprinkler heads.



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**7**

Check faucets and  
toilets for leaks.  
A leaky toilet can  
waste up to 73,600  
gallons a year!



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#8

Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water, pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance saving you time and money.



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#9

It takes about 70 gallons of water to fill a bathtub, so showers are generally the more-water-efficient way to bathe.



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#10

Harvest rain water to water plants, shrubs and lawns, bathe pets and wash vehicles.



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#11

Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from doing laundry. Save water by making sure to adjust the setting on your machine to the proper load size.



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#12

Use compost and mulch in flower and vegetable gardens and shrub beds.



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#**13**

Turn off lawn irrigation systems if it has rained  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or more, and leave it off for 10 - 14 days



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#**14**

If you use a low-flow shower head, you can save 15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower.



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# #15

Installing water efficient plumbing fixtures can reduce water consumption by 25 to 60 percent and save energy, too. Look for the WaterSense label to help you find high-performing, water efficient products.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#16

Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.



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#17

When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some can save up to 20 gallons of water per load.



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#18

Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month!



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WATER SAVING TIP

# #19

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#20

When sprucing up your front or backyard, consider xeriscaping. This landscape method uses low-water-use plants to limit your water use.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#21

Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#22

Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.



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#**23**

Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#24

When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.



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# #25

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#26

Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#32

Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#31

Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output.  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch of water is enough to apply each time you irrigate.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#30

Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over-watering some while under-watering others.



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#29

Be a leak detective! Check all hoses, connectors and faucets regularly for leaks.



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# #28

Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.



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#**27**

Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.



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#**39**

Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#38

When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your non-edible plants.



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#**37**

Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.



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#**36**

If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.



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#**35**

Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.



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WATER SAVING TIP

#34

When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.



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#**33**

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways and save water every time.



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