



WATER CONSERVATION

Tips for Saving Water in the Bathroom



Toilet Water Savings

Replacing your old toilet with a new one can save water—a lot of water. In 2000 Seattle conducted a study to measure water use in single-family homes before and after installation of high-efficiency toilets (Mayer, et. al 2000). About half of the toilets installed were standard 1.6 gallon per flush (gpf) models. The other half were dual flush toilets that offer a 0.8 gallon flush for liquids and 1.6 gallon flush for solids. The study found that a family of four would save more than 14,000 gallons of water per year by installing a 1.6 gpf toilet and more than 17,000 gallons of water by installing a dual flush toilet (www.h2ouse.org).

Bathtub Water Savings

Filling a bathtub uses a fixed volume of water, and reducing the flow rate has no impact on the amount of water used for a bath. Therefore, there are few conservation measures directed at bathtub use. Here are some tips to maximize efficiency in your bathtub:

- Only fill the bathtub as much as you need. Bathing babies, small children and pets requires much less water than an adult and it is often easier to wash small babies in a sink or wash basin.
- Make sure your bathtub drain plug doesn't leak. Replace the plug or plug washer if necessary.
- Replace the tub diverter valve (that routes water to the shower) if it leaks.
- In a drought, don't let the used bathtub water go down the drain! Reuse bathtub water outdoors on your landscape.

