

Water Saving Tips to Lower Your Bill

Looking to save on your water bill? Here are some essential tips to help reduce your water usage:

Common Areas to Check

- **Leaking Toilet:** One of the biggest water wasters.
- **Hose Bib Left On:** Ensure it's turned off after use.
- **Leaking Hot Water Tank:** Address any leaks promptly.

Toilet Savings

- **Running Toilets:** Often caused by bad toilet flappers, leaks, or malfunctioning fill valves. Use Kool-Aid or food coloring in the toilet tank before bed; if the bowl is colored in the morning, the flapper needs replacing. A faulty flapper can waste **1,200 to 7,000 gallons** of water daily.
- **Older Toilets:** If you have an older model (5 gallons per flush), place a water bottle in the tank to save water. You can also purchase a conversion kit from hardware stores like Lowe's or Home Depot to adapt older toilets to newer standards.

Shower and Sink Tips

- **Limit Shower Time:** Showers can use **6 gallons per minute**. Consider installing water-saving showerheads.
- **Turn Off the Tap:** Don't leave water running while brushing your teeth or shaving. Only use water for rinsing when needed.
- **Fix Dripping Faucets:** A single drip can waste **10,000 gallons** annually, enough for **300 loads of laundry**.

Dishwashing & Laundry

- **Dishwashers vs. Handwashing:** Always use a full dishwasher. Dishwashers save up to **27 gallons of water per load** compared to handwashing, which can use up to **40 gallons**.
- **Laundry Tips:** Select the correct load size and wash with cold water when possible.

Outdoor Water Use

- **Hose Use:** Always use a nozzle to shut off water between uses when watering plants or washing cars. In winter, disconnect the hose from the spigot to prevent freezing and pipe bursts.

- **Rain Barrels:** Collect rainwater to use for your garden instead of tap water. (Check State & County guidelines)
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Cold Weather Water Saving Tips

- **Heat Tape:** Ensure your heat tape is properly wrapped and functioning.
 - **Insulate Water Lines:** Wrap exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
 - **Open Cabinets:** Let warm air circulate around pipes by opening closets and cabinets.
 - **Freeze Miser:** This device works like a thermostat for your water faucet, preventing freezing by releasing a small amount of water when temperatures drop below **37°F**.
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Incorporating these tips can significantly save your water bill and protect your home from unnecessary water damage, especially in colder months!