

# HOW TO USE LESS WATER

## 💧 In the Bathroom

- Fill a small glass with water and use only that to wet the toothbrush, rinse your mouth and rinse the toothbrush as you clean your teeth. You may save a gallon or more of water this way.
- Change out the old sink faucet aerators in your home with new 1-gallon per minute type.
- Check your toilet annually for fill valve leaks. The fill valve may be leaking steadily and you'll never hear it because the water is escaping silently down the overflow tube. Replace the worn fill valve.
- If your shower fills a 1-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, you need to replace that showerhead with a more water efficient model.
- Don't use the toilet as a trash basket.
- Is your toilet an older model and you lack the money to get a low volume flush toilet at this point in time? Then fill a plastic half gallon milk or juice bottle with sand and water. Put the cap on the bottle tightly and set this down into the toilet cistern tank out of the way of the float and the flush handle. Your toilet will now use  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon less with each flush.
- If you have a toilet float that you can adjust, then adjust it so that the cistern tank fills back to just the amount of water needed to get a toilet flush done. The toilet is the largest water user in your home, so it's a great place to start when trying to use less water.
- Plug the tub next time you shower to learn how much water you're really using. You may be using more than you realize. Use a timer to get in the habit of taking short showers.
- Shave using water in a stoppered basin rather than running the water to rinse the razor.
- Running the faucet to warm up the water before using the shower? Then, catch that water in a bucket and use it to flush the toilet or water the tomatoes.
- Check the toilet twice a year for a leaking flapper valve. You can do this with a few drops of food coloring. Color the water in the cistern tank and don't flush. After 15 minutes or so, check to see if the colored water has started to leak into the bowl under the seat. If it has, then replace the flapper valve.
- Install a 2.5-gallon per minute showerhead.
- When taking a bath, don't run water down the drain until it is warm. Plug the tub and fill using only the hot water tap, then adjust the temperature of the water to your satisfaction after the water has warmed.
- Don't run the water at full force when showering. You'll still get clean and will be using less water.
- If your toilet is 15 to 20 years old, it needs to be changed out for a water saving WaterSense model.
- Take a really SHORT shower. Turn the water on and get wet. Turn the water off, then soap up. Turn the water on and rinse off. Turn the water off. You're done!
- What other ways are there for you to use less water in the bathroom?