

# HOW TO USE LESS WATER

## 💧 In the Utility Room

- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Replacing an old washer with a WaterSense model makes dollars and sense. [www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)
- Know where the whole house shutoff valve is located. This is handy when you have a leak and you need to shut off the water!
- Don't have a whole house shutoff valve? Get one installed. You'll thank yourself when that emergency leak happens.
- Do you have a water softener? Set it at the lowest setting possible. Too high and it takes more water to rinse off soap and you'll have to backwash and regenerate more often, which uses more water.
- Use the right water level for the size of laundry load that you're washing. That way you won't be washing a few pieces of clothing in a full tub of water.
- Check laundry hoses for corrosion and weak spots at least once a year. Get new ones if you find that the hoses are aging. This will save you from a burst hose and the mess that will result, as well as the waste of water.
- Don't launder clothes that you've barely worn. You'll save wear and tear on the clothing as well as use a bit less water.
- Check the water softener regularly to make sure that the recharge cycle is correct, that it isn't running too long, or that it isn't stuck and allowing water to just run down the drain.
- Insulate the hot water pipes in your home so that you don't have to run as much water while waiting for it to get warm.
- Use a basin if you're hand washing a delicate piece of clothing. Don't rinse under running water.
- Install a demand initiated regeneration water softener which runs only while the water is in use. This saves water, energy and maintenance.
- Direct the condensate water from the HVAC system into your garden.
- When buying devices and appliances that use water, look for the WaterSense label. This means that the device uses less water than a conventional model.
- Redirect your sump pump flow out into your landscaped beds and gardens with a perforated pipe.
- What other smart ideas do you have about how to use less water?