

## Did you know?

The average toilet uses 5 to 7 gallons of water per flush.

A shower can use 25 to 50 gallons of water (5 gallons per minute).

Cutting one minute off your shower time can save about 700 gallons of water per month.

The average bath takes about 36 gallons of water.

The average American individual uses 100 to 176 gallons of water at home each day.

47 percent of the US population uses surface water; 53 percent of the US population uses groundwater.

About 340 billion gallons of water are used every day in the United States. This total includes water used in irrigation, in industry, in fire fighting and in street cleaning.

Humans require about 2 1/2 quarts of water a day to be healthy.

More than 1.5 billion people do not have access to a safe and adequate water supply.

## Bottled Water—FYI

- Americans send about 38 billion water bottles a year to landfills. Considering more than 24 million gallons of oil — enough to fuel 30,000 cars for a year — are required to produce just one billion bottles, the environmental impact of plastic bottle waste is truly staggering.
- Americans used about 50 billion plastic water bottles in 2006. The U.S.'s recycling rate for plastic is only 23 percent, which means 38 billion water bottles — more than one billion dollars worth of plastic — is wasted each year.
- Public water in the U.S. is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, which requires multiple daily tests for bacteria and makes results available to the public. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, which requires only weekly testing and does not share its findings with the EPA or the public.

 Be a "Wise Water User"



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 Be a "Wise Water User"



**Water  
Conservation  
In Your Home  
OR  
Don't Let Your  
Money Go With  
The Flow!**

Washakie  
County  
Conservation  
District

307-347-2456 Ext 101

# Water, Water Everywhere? But not a drop to spare!

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks and drips. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day!



Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks.

2. Check your toilets for leaks. The food dye method works well. Put a little food dye in the tank of your toilet. If, without flushing the color appears in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired.

3. Check your pump. If you have a well at your home, listen to see if the pump kicks on and off while the water is not in use. If it does, you have a leak.

4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks. Read the house water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read the same, you have a leak.

5. Take shorter showers. One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 30 to 40 gallons of water.

6. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush. There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth, use a glass of water for rinsing.

7. Rinse your razor in a sink full of water, this will do just as good a job as rinsing it under running water.

8. Insulate your water pipes. It is easy and inexpensive if you use pre-slit foam. You will get your hot water faster, plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.



If purchasing a new toilet consider buying a low flush model.

9. Install water saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. These two items are inexpensive and easy for the homeowner to install.

10. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units. These units require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternative to using a garbage disposal.

11. Only use your dishwasher and clothes washer for full loads. Don't waste water with pre-rinsing of your dishes, the dishwasher is designed to take care of that. When doing dishes by hand don't leave the rinse water running; use a sink full of water to rinse your dishes.

12. Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the tub only one-third full.

13. When adjusting water temperatures, instead of turning the water flow up, try turning in down. If the water is too hot or cold, turn the offender down rather than increasing water flow to balance the temperatures.



For a cold drink of water, keep a pitcher in the refrigerator!

14. Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up.

15. Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.

16. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.



Sources:

American Water and Energy Savers  
<http://www.americanwater.com>  
Southern New Hampshire University  
<http://www.snhu.edu/7835.asp>