



Water **conservation**

Tips for summer and beyond.

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Georgians consume 10% more water than the national average. Although Georgia is not currently in a drought, we have seen in very recent history the damaging effects of drought. History has taught us that water conservation is important throughout the year, and especially during the summer. Below are some easy water conservation tips we hope you will implement. By taking a few simple steps, a family of four can save 23,000 gallons of water a year.

Outdoors:

- Water your lawn only when necessary. Most people over-water their lawns, even when conservation measures such as specific watering days are in place. Because certain households are allowed to water on specific days, most people believe that they must water on those days regardless of whether their lawn needs it. To know whether you need to water your lawn, see if you leave footprints after walking across it. If you do, it needs to be watered. Watering only when it's needed can save 750-1,500 gallons a month.
- Water in the morning before the sun gets hot and evaporates the water. This can save up to 300 gallons a month. If you water your plants by hand with a hose, use a spray nozzle with a cut-off valve instead of letting the water run.
- Do not water your lawn during or after rain. Many sprinkler systems have automatic rain shutoff devices. If your system does not, turn off the system during rain and turn it back on when your lawn needs water.
- Set your sprinkler to only water grass and plants and not impervious areas such as driveways and sidewalks.
- By watering your plants and grass less often, but with a sufficient amount of water, they will grow deeper roots, requiring you to water less often.
- Use a broom or rake to clean off your driveway instead of a water hose.

Catch rainwater in buckets or rain barrels placed under your gutter downspouts to be used later for plants or on your lawn.

- Catch the cold water at the beginning of a shower or bath in a bucket instead of letting it go down the drain and use it to water plants or the lawn.



Inside: Bathrooms

- Take shorter showers: shortening showers by 1-2 minutes can save 700 gallons a month.
- Switch to low-flow aerator showerheads and faucets. These will save 2.5 gallons every minute and can be purchased for a nominal price at local home improvement stores.
- If you do not already have a low-flush toilet, either replace your old toilets or place a plastic bottle filled with water or pebbles in the tank of your toilet. This will save up to 300 gallons a month for an average family.
- Turn off the tap water while brushing teeth, shaving, or lathering hands. This can save 3 gallons a day.
- Check for leaks and fix them.

Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when it is full.
- Reuse water on your lawn and for plants. If you wash vegetables or other food in the sink, use a bowl and then use the rinse water to water your plants. Water from fishbowls can also be used to water plants. That water is full of nutrients and acts as a fertilizer.
- If you are washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water instead of running it to rinse plates and utensils. This saves 250-500 gallons a month.

Sources:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California- <http://www.monolake.org/socialwater/wctips.htm#topten>
State of Utah Division of Water Resources- <http://www.conservewater.utah.gov/Tips/Parade:WillWeRunDry?> April 24, 2005.