

INDOOR TIPS

KITCHEN

#1

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

#2

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.

#3

Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Now, Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.

#4

If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.

#5

Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.

#6

Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.

#7

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons every time.

#8

Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.

#9

Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.

#10

Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.

#11

Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.

#12

Reuse leftover water from cooked or steamed foods to start a nutritious soup, it's one more way to get eight glasses of water a day.

#13

Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.

#14

Select the proper pan size for cooking. Large pans may require more cooking water than necessary.

#15

If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.

#16

Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.

#17

When shopping for a new dishwasher, use the [Consortium for Energy Efficiency website](#) to compare water use between models.

LAUNDRY ROOM

#18

When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.

#19

Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.

#20

When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some can save up to 20 gallons of water per load.

#21

Have a plumber re-route your greywater to trees and plants rather than the sewer line. Check with your city and county for codes.

#22

When buying a washer, check the [Consortium for Energy Efficiency website](#) to compare water use between models.

BATHROOM

#23

If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a [WaterSense® labeled](#) model.

#24

Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.

#25

Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons per month.

#26

Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year.

#27

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.

#28

When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.

#29

Upgrade older toilets with water-saving [WaterSense®](#) labeled models.

#30

If your toilet flapper doesn't close properly after flushing, replace it.

#31

Use a [WaterSense®](#) labeled showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

#32

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.

#33

If your toilet was installed before 1992, purchasing a [WaterSense®](#) labeled toilet can reduce the amount of water used for each flush.

#34

Consider buying a dual-flush toilet. It has two flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste and a full-flush for solid waste.

#35

Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.

#36

Turn off the water while washing your hair and save up to 150 gallons a month.

#37

When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.

#38

Take 5-minute showers instead of baths. A full bathtub requires up to 70 gallons of water.

#39

Install water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.

#40

Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.

#41

Look for [WaterSense®](#) labeled toilets, sink faucets, urinals and showerheads.

#42

One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.

#43

While you wait for hot water, collect the running water and use it to water plants.

GENERAL INDOOR

#44

Teach children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.

#45

Watch the [Home Water Challenge](#) video or use the [Home Water Audit Calculator](#) to see where you can save water.

#46

When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it most.

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Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.

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[Play fun games](#) while learning how to save water!

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Monitor your [water bill](#) for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

#50

Learn how to use your water meter to check for leaks.

#51

Reward kids for the water-saving tips they follow.

#52

Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.

#53

Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.

#54

Hire a [GreenPlumber®](#) to help reduce your water, energy, and chemical

use.

#55

[Be a leak detective!](#) Check all hoses, connectors, and faucets regularly for leaks.

#56

We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses.

#57

See a leak you can't fix? Tell a parent, teacher, employer, or property manager, or call a handyman.

#58

At home or while staying in a hotel, reuse your towels.

#59

[Make suggestions to your employer](#) or school about ways to save water and money.

#60

Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

#61

See how your [water use stacks up](#) to others by calculating your daily water use.

OUTDOOR TIPS

XERISCAPE LANDSCAPING

#62

Use porous material for walkways and patios to prevent wasteful runoff and keep water in your yard.

#63

[Group plants](#) with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while underwatering others.

#64

[Choose the right Arizona-friendly plants](#) and watch them thrive in our desert environment.

#65

[Reduce the amount of lawn](#) in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.

#66

Plant species [native](#) to your region.

#67

Plant in the spring and fall, when the watering requirements are lower.

#68

When sprucing up your front or backyard, consider xeriscaping. This landscape method uses low-water-use plants to limit your water use.

#69

Consider [attending a landscape class](#) hosted by a water provider. Most workshops occur in the spring and fall.

#70

Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

#71

Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.

#72

Start a compost pile. Using compost in your garden or flower beds adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.

#73

Use a layer of organic [mulch](#) on the surface of your planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.

#74

Spreading a layer of organic [mulch](#) around plants helps them retain moisture, saving water, time and money.

#75

Use 2 to 4 inches of organic [mulch](#) around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.

#76

Visit your [local xeriscape garden](#) to view plants that thrive in our hot desert environment.

#77

Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low-water-use plant and save up to 550 gallons each year.

#78

Call your local conservation office for more information about xeriscaping with water-thrifty trees, plants, and ground covers.

#79

Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.

#80

For automatic water savings, direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems to water-loving plants in your landscape.

LAWN CARE

#81

Hire a [qualified pro](#) to install your irrigation system and keep it working properly and efficiently.

#82

Hire a Smartscape Certified professional landscaper who has received landscape training specific to the Sonoran Desert.

#83

Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass.

#84

Leave lawn clippings on your grass, this cools the ground and holds in moisture.

#85

If [installing a lawn](#), select a lawn mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.

#86

Aerate your lawn periodically. Holes every six inches will allow water to reach the roots, rather than run off the surface.

#87

If walking across the lawn leaves footprints (blades don't spring back up), then it is time to water.

#88

Let your lawn go dormant (brown) during the winter. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three to four weeks, less if it rains.

#89

Avoid overseeding your lawn with winter grass. Ryegrass needs water every few days, whereas Dormant Bermuda grass needs water monthly.

#90

Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. [Weeds](#) compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.

#91

While [fertilizers](#) promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.

#92

Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.

#93

Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output. 3/4 to 1 inch of water is enough to apply each time you irrigate.

LANDSCAPE

#94

Read the [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#) guidebook to help you determine how long and how much to water.

#95

Use a trowel, shovel, or soil probe to examine soil moisture depth. If the top two to three inches of soil are dry, it's time to water.

#96

Set a kitchen timer when using the hose as a reminder to turn it off. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons per minute.

#97

Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

#98

Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.

#99

Timing is everything when it comes to irrigation. Learn [how to set your controller](#) properly.

#100

Look for [WaterSense®](#) labeled irrigation controllers.

#101

Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case of malfunctions or rain.

#102

Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.

#103

If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

#104

Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.

#105

Signs of overwatering: Leaves turn lighter shades of green or yellow, young shoots wilt, and sometimes algae or fungi grow.

#106

Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.

#107

Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.

#108

Water dry spot by hand instead of running the whole irrigation system longer.

#109

Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.

#110

Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots, where it's needed.

#111

Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.

#112

Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before hitting the ground.

#113

Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from gutters for watering gardens and landscapes.

#114

For hanging baskets, planters and pots, put ice cubes on top of the soil to give your plants a cool drink of water without overflow.

#115

Remember to periodically check your sprinkler system valves for leaks, and to keep sprinkler heads in good shape.

#116

Spring is a great time to give your irrigation system a checkup to ensure it's working efficiently.

#117

Pruning properly can help your plants use water more efficiently.

POOL

#118

Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation.

#119

Make sure your swimming pools, fountains and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.

#120

If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.

#121

When back-washing your pool, consider using the water on salt-tolerant plants in the landscape.

#122

Minimize or eliminate the use of waterfalls and sprays in your pool. Aeration increases evaporation.

#123

Don't overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing.

#124

Keep water in the pool when playing, it will save water.

#125

Instead of building a private pool, join a community pool.

#126

Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those that spray water into the air.

#127

Use a grease pencil to conduct a bucket test to check for pool leaks. An unnatural water level drop may indicate a leak.

GENERAL OUTDOOR

#128

Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.

#129

For more immediate hot water and energy savings, insulate hot water pipes.

#130

Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. Or, wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your grass at the same time.

#131

Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.

#132

Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.

#133

When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your non-edible plants.

#134

When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.

#135

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways, and save water every time.

#136

[Evaporative coolers](#) require a seasonal maintenance check. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.

#137

If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to plants in your landscape.

#138

Set water softeners for a minimum number of refills to save both water and chemicals, plus energy, too.

#139

If you have an evaporative cooler, install a recirculating pump to keep water from bleeding off with one pass.

#140

Report broken pipes, leaky hydrants and errant sprinklers to property owners or your [local water provider](#).

#141

Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. Were a pipe to burst, this could save gallons of water and prevent damage.

#142

Install a thermostat and timer on your evaporative cooler so it only operates when necessary.

OFFICE

#10

Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.

#29

Upgrade older toilets with water-saving [WaterSense®](#) labeled models.

#39

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#54

Hire a [GreenPlumber®](#) to help reduce your water, energy, and chemical use.

#143

Some commercial refrigerators and ice-makers are cooled with water. Upgrade to air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.

#144

Post a hotline in bathrooms and kitchens to report leaks or water waste to facility managers or maintenance personnel.

#145

Create a suggestion and incentives system at your organization to recognize water-saving ideas.

#146

Include a water-saving tip in your employee newsletter. Find 100+ tips at [wateruseitwisely.com](#).

#147

Implement a [water management plan](#) for your facility, then educate employees on good water habits through newsletters and posters.

#148

Publish your organization's monthly water use to show progress toward water-saving goals.

#149

Invite your water utility conservation staff to your organization for Earth Day and other environmental events to help promote water savings.

#150

Water audit your facility to find out your recommended water use, then monitor your utility bills to gauge your monthly consumption.

#151

Have maintenance personnel regularly check your facilities for leaks, drips and other water waste.

#152

If you use processed water in your business or facility, look into water recycling.

#153

[Contact your water utility](#) to see if rebates are available for purchasing water-efficient fixtures, equipment or for facility audits.

#154

Consider and compare water use when purchasing ice makers, dishwashers, reverse osmosis units, coolers and cleaning equipment.

#155

Become or appoint a water ambassador within your organization who creates, implements and maintains your water conservation program.

#156

Become a proud [WaterSense®](#) partner and let all your customers know.

#157

As part of the [WaterSense® Fix-A-Leak Week in March](#), plan an employee campaign to look for leaks.

#158

Determine how your on-site water is being used by installing sub-meters where feasible, then monitoring for savings.

#159

Conduct a facility water use inventory and identify water management goals.

#160

Don't forget hidden water use costs, like energy for pumping, heating and cooling, chemical treatment, and damage and sewer expenses.

#161

Show your company's dedication to water conservation through a policy statement. Commit management, staff and resources to the effort.

#162

Shut off water to unused areas of your facility to eliminate waste from leaks or unmonitored use.

#163

Create a goal of how much water your company can save and plan a celebration once that goal is met.

#164

Ask employees for suggestions on saving water and give prizes for the best ideas. Incentivize it!

#165

Write feature articles on your employee website that highlight water-saving ideas and successes.

#166

Test your co-workers or employees on topics like xeriscape, WaterSense®, and high-efficiency toilets. See how water-wise they are.

#167

Hire a [WaterSense® irrigation partner](#) to help with your landscape.

#168

Saving water on your landscape adds up quickly. Send the person in charge of your landscape to an irrigation workshop.

#169

Marry the weather with your landscape water use. Water use should decrease during rainy periods and increase during hot, dry periods.

#170

Visit your local [Water Conservation office's website](#) to get information on programs available to businesses.

#171

Make sure your contract plumber and/or maintenance personnel knows about [GreenPlumbers®](#).

#172

Ask your company to support water conservation events and education. [ProjectWet](#) hosts local events throughout the country.

#173

Support [Tap Into Quality](#) and forgo those plastic water bottles to lower your carbon footprint.

#174

Scrape dishes rather than rinsing them before washing.

#175

Use water-conserving icemakers.

#176

A recent study showed that 99% of business managers surveyed ranked water conservation as a “top five” priority over the next decade.

#177

If your facility relies on cooling towers, have maintenance maximize cycles of concentration by providing efficient water treatment.

#178

Be sure your irrigation system is watering only the areas intended, with no water running onto walks, streets or down the gutter.

#179

While cleaning sidewalks, a hose and nozzle use 8-12 gallons of water per minute. A pressurized Waterbroom® uses closer to 3 gallons.

#180

Inspect your landscape irrigation system regularly for leaks or broken sprinkler heads and adjust pressures to specification.

#181

Give your landscape proper amounts of irrigation water. Determine water needs, water deeply but infrequently, and adjust to the season.

#182

Establish a monthly water budget for your landscape based on the water needs of your plants.

#183

Limit turf areas at your facility. Instead, landscape using [xeriscape principles](#) to cut water use in half.

#184

Put decorative fountains on timers and use only during work or daylight hours. Check for leaks if you have automatic refilling devices.

#185

Wash company vehicles at commercial car washers that recycle water.

#186

Wash company vehicles as needed rather than on a schedule. Stretch out the time in between washes.

#187

Consider turning your high-maintenance water feature/fountain into a low-maintenance art feature or planter.

#188

When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy efficient.

#189

Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.

#190

When ice cubes are leftover from your drink, don't throw them out. Pour them on a plant.

KIDS

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