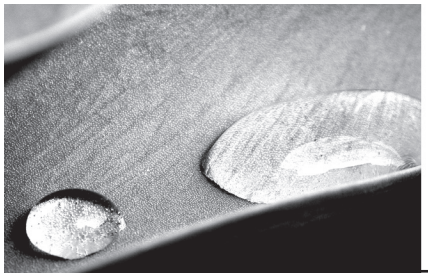


city of santa barbara

Water Conservation Program

What's Your Water Usage?

What's your water usage?

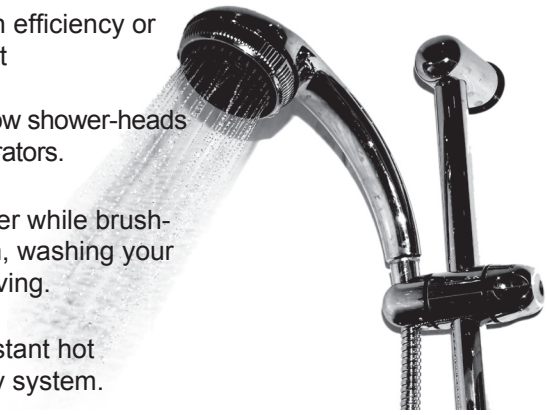
	Activity	Inefficient	Efficient
Bathroom	Shower (8 minute)	Old shower-head, 4 gal/min, 32 gal	Low-flow shower-head, 2.5 gal/min, 20 gal
	Bath	2/3 full tub, 30 gal	1/3 tub, 15 gal
	Brushing teeth	Open tap, 3.5 gal	Quick rinse, .5 gal
	Washing hands	Open tap, 3.5 gal	Quick rinse, .5 gal
	Shaving	Tap running, 5 – 15 gal	Tap off quick rinse, .5 gal
	Toilet	3.5 to 7 gal tank, 31 gal/day (avg)	1.2 to 1.6 gal tank, 7 – 9 gal/day (avg)
Kitchen/Laundry	Laundry	Old 45 gal/load	High efficiency 22 gal/load
	Dishwashing machine	Full cycle 25 gal/load	Short cycle 12 gal/load
	Hand dishwashing	Open tap, 30 gal/set	Basin full, 5 gal/set
Outdoor	Landscape	Turf, ~1500 gal/wk	Water Wise landscape, 325 gal/wk
	Washing Car	Running hose, ~180 gal/wash	Bucket, hose with shutoff nozzle, 20 gal/wash

Leak detection

Even a small, slow leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water a month.

1. Repair leaks.
2. Check indoor and outdoor plumbing routinely.
3. Monitor your water bill and meter.
4. Get a free water check-up!

Indoor Conservation Practices



- Install a high efficiency or low -flow toilet
- Install low-flow shower-heads and faucet aerators.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving.
- Install an instant hot water delivery system.

- Fill the sink with water when washing dishes, instead of letting water run.
- Wash only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
- Buy water and energy efficient appliances.

Outdoor Conservation Practices

- Keep sprinklers working correctly to prevent leaks and overspray.
- Reduce turf and use water wise plants.
- Use mulch to keep water from evaporating.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles it's water.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways and patio.
- Adjust watering schedule according to the weather by using the "Watering Index" and landscape watering calculator.
- Install drip irrigation.

Water Conservation Hotline (805) 564-5460 or www.SaveWaterSB.org