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Water saving and conservation tips, home and garden 58

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Try these tips out and save water all around your home and garden

Water conservation is a way to save money as well as protecting the environment

Use less water

- wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl rather than with running water
- a five minute shower uses a third of the water of a bath
- a power shower will use the same amount of water as a bath in less than five minutes - so don't stay in them
- don't leave the tap running when you brush your teeth, use a glass or mug instead
- eggs release nutrients when you boil them. Use the water - once it's cooled to room temperature - for watering houseplants, they will like the extra nutrients
- start your washing machine or dishwasher when you have a full load. A full load uses less water than two half loads
- generally, don't use a big sink or bowl full of water for small tasks like hand-washing or shaving
- wash in sand - only joking!

Easy water efficiency tips

- use the minimum amount of water to make a cup of tea - so you'll save energy as well as water
- keep a jug of water in the fridge, instead of running taps to get cold water
- use the dirty water from cleaning a fish tank on your plants or garden. It's rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, which are good fertilizers
- use less water by turning the hot tap down, rather than the cold tap up
- cotton wool and tissues should be put in a waste bin rather than flushed down the toilet. These cause nasty blockages on turns in the sewer pipes

DIY tips

- old toilet cisterns use up to nine litres of clean water with each flush
- reduce this by using a cistern displacement device, a sealed full plastic bottle will work well. Old bricks disintegrate slowly
- dripping taps waste up to four litres of water a day. Replace worn tap washers for a quick and cheap way of saving money
- prepare for winter - burst water pipes cause flood damage to your home as well as wasting water
- ensure your water pipes and external taps are properly lagged before the cold winter months arrive.

Water conservation in the garden

- mulching and composting retains water in your garden
- only water your lawn once a week in the hottest weather. Over-watering can weaken your lawn by encouraging roots to seek the surface
- early morning or evening is the best time, to avoid evaporation
- use a broom instead of a hose to clean your drive and paved areas - a better method anyway!
- use a water butt, or barrel, to collect rainwater for use in the garden.
- make an **Xeriscape** by using plants that require less water

That's easy isn't it? Try all our other **Ecotist** tips on Hubpages and our main website.

- [Building DIY green home & building information - huge site](#)
All the text from a big book on building and DIY techniques, with a green perspective. Take a look!
- [A to Z of Water Saving Tips](#)
From the BBC.
- [UK Environment Agency Water Saving Tips](#)
Saving water at home, in the garden, or at work takes very little effort, but makes a big difference.



Careful with that water



They love it so don't pollute it



Water butt - connection to downpipe, with overflow system