



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

We all know that water and electricity don't mix, but electricity is used to power pumps and other equipment throughout the nation's water supply. Purifying water for human consumption and then treating the wastewater afterward consumes energy at an astounding rate. A gallon of water is heavy, about 8.3 lbs. It takes a lot of power to move water even a short distance.

Energy is needed:

To move water from its source.

To chemically and physically treat it to make it safe for humans.

To move conditioned water through pipes to users.

To heat water for certain uses.

To move the used water to treatment plants.

To operate the wastewater treatment plant.

To disburse the treated wastewater for reuse or return to the natural system.

You can use less water by:

- Using a low-flow faucet saving 3.5 gallons per minute.
- Using a low-flow toilet saving 5 gallons per flush or add a few inches of pebbles or sand to a used plastic drink bottle, fill the rest of the way with water, put the cap back on, then set it inside a corner of your tank away from the mechanism. Each time you flush your tank will refill with less water.
- Shutting off water while brushing teeth saves 2 gallons of water
- A 5-minute shower can use 25-30 gallons of water. A low-flow head can help reduce water usage by about 40%
- Fixing a leaky faucet can save up to 100 gallons per day.
- An automatic dishwasher uses 9-12 gallons of water while hand washing uses up to 20 gallons.
- Install a gray water-collecting barrel for watering plants outside and an additional bonus is the plants like that water better than treated water.

Sources:

The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Your Carbon Footprint by Nancy S. Grant
www.water.siemens.com/en/campaigns/Pages/water_footprint.aspx