



**IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**

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Water Conservation and Protection Tips for Residents

Kitchen and Laundry

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods, thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- If washing dishes by hand, use a dishpan for rinsing dishes.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Capture gray water. This is the waste water from washing dishes and clothes and can be used to water lawns, plants or other landscaping uses. Consider using a biodegradable soap if capturing gray water for reuse.

Bathrooms

- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing.
- If you use a tub, fill the tub only half full.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it – such as watering plants or a garden.

Outside

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.
- Lower pool water level to reduce amount of water splashed out.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Use native plants or practice xeriscape garden techniques in garden and lawn areas. Native plants generally require less water than exotic species.
- Use mulch around flower and vegetable gardens to reduce water loss. Mulching lawn mower's help protect water less and do not require disposal of grass clippings.
- Water lawn areas early in the morning during the coolest part of the day. Consider installing an automatic timer. Don't forget to adjust your watering schedule as days get longer or shorter.
- Adjust your sprinkler. Watering sidewalks, driveways or the streets wastes water and costs you money.

Over →

Equipment and Maintenance

- ❑ Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- ❑ Install ultra-low flow toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water or gravel in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.
- ❑ Install low-flow aerators and showerheads.
- ❑ Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine that can save over 50% in water and energy use.

In Your Community

- ❑ Get involved. Many communities have citizen advisory groups to help with issues such as protecting drinking water, establishing water use plans or drought plans.
- ❑ Volunteer. Do you have a stream, river, or lake in your community? Volunteer at a local clean up day.
- ❑ Do not dump water, chemicals or oils or other products into storm drains. Storm drains are connected directly to surface or ground water, such as your local river or stream. This may be the same water that is used for drinking water in your community.

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	www.deq.idaho.gov
Idaho Department of Water Resources	www.idwr.idaho.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	www.water.epa.gov

Or Contact your local public works department or water utility for local information.