

Be earth-wise

# Tips on how to save water

It is estimated that every household could easily save 100-150 gallons of water each day if the following suggestions were implemented:

- Check for leaks. A dripping faucet can allow up to two gallons per hour to be wasted. Toilets are also potential problem areas. To check toilets, simply drop some food colouring into the tank and wait 15 minutes. If coloured water shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Use water-saving showerheads and faucets. High-flow showerheads spew water out at 6-10 gallons a minute. Flow restriction devices can cut the flow in half without reducing pressure.
- Water your lawn and plants early in the day. This practice will reduce the loss of water due to evaporation. Late watering also reduces evaporation. During the summer, water your plants slowly and infrequently. Consider drip irrigation for garden areas, which help add water only where it is needed.
- Use a pistol-grip nozzle on your hose. When washing your car, shut off the water after each hosing. A wide-open hose can discharge upwards of 50 gallons of water in just 5 minutes.
- Don't let faucets run continuously. This is especially true when shaving, brushing your teeth and rinsing the dishes. An open faucet allows five gallons to pass in just two minutes.
- Review your toilets' water consumption. Don't use your toilets as an ashtray or wastebasket. Flushing gallons of water for these purposes is



wasteful.

Remember, these tips are only general guidelines. Since each situation is different, contact a professional if you have questions about a specific issue. More home maintenance information is available online at [www.housemaster.com](http://www.housemaster.com).

—News Canada

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