

Saving Water - Tips for Residential Use

LaundryWhen doing laundry, always wash full loads.

- Conventional washers built before 2011 typically use about 40 gallons (151.4 liters) per load; resource-efficient washer may use as little as 15 gallons (56.8 liters) per load.
- Adjust the water level in the washer to the amount needed for the load. Some of the new efficient washers will do this automatically.

When it's time to replace the clothes washer, choose a high-efficiency washer with a low water factor.

- The smaller the water factor, the more efficient the clothes washer.
- **Energy Star models** currently have a maximum of 6.0, although many well-performing machines are available with lower water factors. Look for the lowest water factor available to achieve the highest water savings.

DishwashingIf washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water rather than continually running the tap.

Install an efficient dishwasher.

- Technological advances in dishwashers make it possible to use less water to achieve the same goal. Selecting a new dishwasher that uses less water per cycle will reduce household water use.
- Dishwashers use less water than handwashing, particularly if you limit pre-rinsing.
- **Only wash full loads of dishes in the dishwasher.**

Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods.

- Instead, defrost in the refrigerator overnight.

FaucetsFind and fix any leaky faucets.

- A faucet leaking 60 drops per minute will waste 192 gallons (726.8 liters) per month. That is equal to 2,304 gallons (8.7 m³) per year.

Install efficient faucets and/or faucet aerators.

- The U.S. EPA WaterSense program labels efficient faucets and aerators that use a maximum of 1.5 gallons (5.7 liters) per minute.
- Look for the WaterSense label when selecting new faucets or aerators.

Turn off the faucet.

- When lathering hands, shaving, or brushing teeth.