

# How to save water

*This chart gives you an idea of how much water you can save by avoiding wasteful practices in your everyday routine.*

	Normal Use	Conservative Use
Shower	Water running 25 gallons	Wet down, soap up, rinse off 4 gallons
Brushing teeth	Tap running 10 gallons	Wet brush, rinse briefly 1/2 gallon
Bathing	Full bathtub 36 gallons	Minimal water level 10-12 gallons
Shaving	Tap running 20 gallons	Fill basin 1 gallon
Dishwashing	Tap running 30 gallons	Wash and rinse in dishpan or sink 5 gallons
Automatic dishwasher	Full cycle 16 gallons	Short cycle 7 gallons
Washing hands	Tap running 2 gallons	Fill basin 1 gallon
Flushing toilet	Dependent on tank size 5-7 gallons	Using tank replacement bottom 4-6 gallons
Washing machine	Full-cycle, top water level 60 gallons	Short-cycle, minimal water level 27 gallons
Watering outdoors	Average hose 10 gallons per minute	Lowest priority, eliminate -

## Other methods for saving water:

- Install orifice devices in faucets; especially in shower heads where the flow could be cut from 5-15 gpm to 3 gpm.
- Place a brick or plastic bottle in the water closet of toilet.
- Install pressure-reducing valves at homes which have excessive pressure.
- Install devices which give instant tempered water instead of letting the water run for the hot water to begin.

Source: South Tahoe Public Utility District of California



# Don't let your toilet waste water



*A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of high quality water each year and place unnecessary demands on your sewer system or septic tank. Usually you can not hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank.*

Follow these easy steps to determine if you have a toilet leak:

- Lift off the lid from your toilet tank.
- Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring in the toilet tank. (Note: Do not use dye, it can stain.)
- Do not flush or otherwise disturb the toilet for one or two hours or longer.
- At the end of the waiting period, observe the toilet bowl, if the color you placed in the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.

Most frequently, leaks in toilets are caused by a defective flush valve. A flush valve is a flap or ball plunger device that is supposed to act as a stopper in the bottom of your toilet tank. After several years and many flushings, the stopper can be knocked out of shape or simply worn out.



An inexpensive and easy to install replacement valve or complete replacement kit can be purchased from any hardware department or store.

## Unrepaired leaks can be costly

### Water loss in gallons

Leak this size	Loss per day	Loss per month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	693	20,790
•	1,200	36,000
•	1,920	37,600
•	3,096	92,880
•	4,296	128,980
•	6,640	199,200
•	6,984	200,520
•	8,424	252,720
•	9,888	296,640
•	11,324	339,720
•	12,720	381,600
•	14,952	448,560

Source: Mississippi Rural Water Assn.



**Mayor A.J. Holloway  
and the Biloxi City Council**

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