

## Every Drop Counts!

**Your Energy Committee would like you to think outside the sink with these water saving suggestions:**

- 1. Take short showers instead of baths.** Of course, your savings here depends on your and your family's habits. A long, hot shower may use a lot more hot water than a bath where the tub isn't filled to the brim. But even a bath with only a few inches of water can use a heck of a lot of water if you have one of those HUGE jetted bathtubs! A warm bath is a nice luxury, but for daily bathing stick with a short shower. And if you can stand it, you might even try turning off the water while soaping up, shampooing, or shaving!
- 2. Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120°F;** for every 10°F reduction in temperature, you can save from 3%–5% on your water heating costs. Learn more about [lowering your water heating temperature](#).
- 3. Don't let the water run.** Are you guilty of leaving the water on while you brush your teeth? Or when you step away to grab dirty dishes, or find the soap? All of those extra minutes can add up to a lot of wasted water. It only takes a second to shut it off!
- 4. Use cold water for most laundry loads,** and always use cold water for the rinse cycle.
- 5. Fix leaks.** A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month. That may not seem like much, but this [drip calculator](#) from the American Water Works Association puts it into perspective: at 60 drips per minute, you waste 8.64 gallons per day, 259 gallons per month, and just over 3,153 gallons per year. That is a LOT of good, clean water just going to waste!
- 6. Insulate your hot-water storage tank.** For electric tanks, be careful not to cover the thermostat, and for natural gas or oil hot water storage tanks, be careful not to cover the water heater's top, bottom, thermostat, or burner compartment. (Follow the manufacturer's recommendations). Learn more about [insulating your hot water tank](#).
- 7. Install a timer** that turns off your electric water heater at night or times when you don't use it. You could also use it to turn off the water heater during your utility's peak demand times.
- 8. Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Wash only full loads, choose shorter wash cycles, and activate the booster heater if your dishwasher has one.
- 9. Install low-flow fixtures.** Federal regulations require new showerheads and faucets to have low flow rates. Showerheads and faucets that pre-date 1992 can use more than twice as much water as new ones. For a small investment, you can achieve water savings of 25%–60%. Learn more about [low-flow showerheads and faucets](#).
- 10. Insulate the first few feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.** Learn more about [insulating your water pipes](#).
- 11. Don't overwater your lawn** or water during peak periods, and install rain sensors on irrigation systems.