

Facts About Water Use and Conservation

Water Conservation provides benefits welcome in every household by saving money three different ways:

1. Water Conservation will lower water bills.
2. Water Conservation in the winter will lower your annual sewer charge.
3. Conservation of water saves you energy costs for heating that water.

An American family of four uses up to 260 gallons of water in the home per day by...

Tap running for two minutes: 3 – 5 gallons Flushing toilet once: 5 – 7 gallons
 Showering, five minutes: 20 – 35 gallons Full bathtub: 60 gallons
 Automatic dishwasher: 10 – 20 gallons

Did you know that up to 50% of the water used in the summer is for your lawn?

- Water the lawn and garden at dusk when the day is cool, watering during the heat of the day can account for up to 60% evaporation loss.
- Mulch the garden to retain moisture in the soil.
- Use a bucket of suds to wash the car and only rinse with the hose using a nozzle.
- Sweep walks and driveways instead of hosing them.

Water Efficient Fixtures Can Cut Household Water Use by 30%

Type of Use	Down the Drain The average person living in a typical single-family home without water-conserving fixtures uses 74.0 gallons of water each day around the home. Here is how it breaks down:		Save Water, Save Money By installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, households can reduce daily per capita water use by 30% to about 51.9 gallons per day. This saves up to \$100 each year. Here's how water use breaks down for households using conservation measures:	
	Gallons per Capita per Day	Percentage of Total Daily Use	Gallons per Capita per Day	Percentage of Total Daily Use
Showers	13.2	17.8%	11.1	21.4%
Clothes Washers	16.8	22.7%	11.8	22.7%
Toilets	19.3	26.1%	9.3	17.9%
Dishwashers	1.0	1.4%	1.0	1.9%
Baths	1.3	1.8%	1.3	2.5%
Leaks	9.4	12.7%	4.7	9.1%
Faucets	11.4	15.4%	11.1	21.4%
Other Domestic Uses	1.6	2.1%	1.6	3.1%
Total	74.0	100%	51.9	100%

Thank you for your interest in water conservation. The Rapid City Water Division hopes you will join other water customers in doing your share in saving water, our most precious natural resource. Please watch for Water Conservation Measures in your local newspapers and listen for them on the radio. If you have any questions for the Water Division, please call 394-4162.