

Water Conservation 101: Tips for the Home to Save Water and Money

Household water conservation not only saves water, it saves energy, too; energy needed to heat water, and to run appliances.

The bathroom is where you can make the most substantial reduction in your personal water use. Two thirds of the water used in an average home is used in the bathroom.

A lot of that water may be going to the sewer needlessly, adding to the volume of sewage and putting an extra burden on treatment plants.

Is My Toilet Leaking????

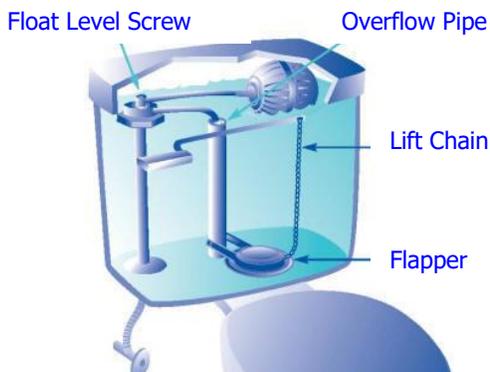
The trouble with leaking toilets is you don't always hear them leaking. Slow, silent toilet leaks are quite common and can waste hundreds of gallons a day undetected. Leaks occur when the toilet is out of adjustment or when parts are worn, so it's important to check it periodically.



The most common causes of a leaking toilet:

If it's at the overflow, the water level is usually too high, although the overflow pipe sometimes may leak below the waterline. To prevent or stem leaks, gently bend the arm until the valve shuts off the water about a half inch below the top of the overflow pipe. Sometimes the valve is worn and will run like a leaky faucet and must be replaced.

Plunger-ball leaks are more difficult to spot. The best way to check is by dropping a little food coloring into a tank full of clean water and waiting to see if the color shows up in the bowl. If it does, you probably have a leak at the plunger ball, either because the ball needs replacing or because the mechanism is out of alignment.



Do not take on any repairs unless you feel confident in your ability to make these repairs. Spotsylvania County will not be responsible for any injuries or damages to your home due to faulty repairs.

Replace your toilet with a high efficiency, low flow toilet that uses less than 2 gallons per flush. On the average, toilets use 4 to 7 gallons per flush.

Place a plastic container filled with sand in an older model toilet tank and you can save water with every flush.

CAUTION: Do not use bricks or put the bottles where they'll jam the flushing mechanism. Also, be sure you don't displace so much water that you have to double-flush to get the toilet to work. Double flushing wastes more than you save.

Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Dead bugs and used facial tissue should go in the trashcan, not the toilet.

Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth, shave or wash your face and you could save an average of 5 gallons.

Shorten your shower time. Most showers use approximately 5 gallons per minute.

Install a high-efficiency, low flow showerhead that uses no more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

When taking a bath, close the tub drain before turning on the water. Fill the tub halfway or less. A full tub can hold more than 50 gallons of water.

Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when it's fully loaded. If you wash dishes by hand, fill the sink or a pan with soapy water instead of letting the faucet run while soaping dishes. Don't let the faucet run while rinsing off dishes. Rinse dishes in a filled sink or pan of water.

Install a low flow faucet aerator on your kitchen faucet that uses no more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

Instead of letting the water run until the water is cold enough to drink, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.

For questions or additional water conservation tips, call Spotsylvania Utilities/Public Works at 540-507-7300 or visit our website:
<http://www.spotsylvania.va.us/departments/utilities>