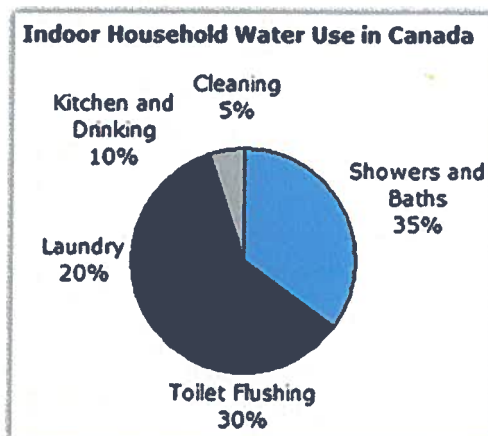
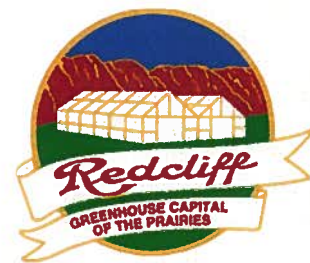


WATER USAGE FACTS AND QUESTIONS

The average Canadian uses over 10,000 litres of water each month. That is enough water to fill 100 bathtubs!



What can you do to reduce the amount of water you use in your household?

Wash Laundry and dishes only when there is a full load

You can save 1100 Litres to 3000 Litres of water a month by washing laundry and dishes only when the machine is full. For small loads of laundry, adjust the water setting to a lower level. If you only have a few dishes wash them in the sink or a dish pan and rinse in a pan of hot water or use a sprayer. Washing dishes one at a time can waste hundreds of gallons of water a month. Remember, dishwashers are designed to clean dirty dishes, so there is no need to pre-rinse. Appliance manufacturers recommend scraping dishes prior to washing them and not pre-rinsing.

Always turn off running water

You can decrease your water use by several gallons by simply turning the water off when you are brushing your teeth or shaving. Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the water until it gets cold enough to drink. Plan your meals ahead of time so you can defrost food in the refrigerator instead of under running water. As you wait for the water in the shower or sink to reach the correct temperature, collect it in a bucket and use it to water plants or mop the floor. Start a compost pile with food waste and stop using the garbage disposal.

Take shorter showers

A 10 minute shower with an older showerhead can use up to 300 Litres of water. Time your shower and try reducing it to 5 minutes. You can reduce water use in the shower by turning the water off while you lather up and shampoo. To maintain a consistent temperature, install a toggle switch on your shower to cut the water flow. If you take a bath, a full bathtub can use 110 to 190 Litres of water. Save water by filling the tub only 1/3 full or no more than 5" of water.

Eliminate any and all leaks

A faucet dripping one drop of water per second wastes nearly 34 Litres of water a day. You can stop dripping faucets by turning them off completely, but not so tightly that you damage the valve seats. If it's still dripping repair it. To check for toilet leaks, remove the toilet tank cover and put in 5 to 10 drops of food coloring. Wait 30 minutes. If any of the coloring leaks into the toilet bowl then you have a leak and you should fix it immediately. A leaking toilet wastes 15 gallons of water a day. Repairing the leaks in your home can cut your water consumption in half.

Reduce the flow of toilets and showerheads

Close to half of the water used in a home is for toilets and showers. If your toilet was manufactured before 1993, it uses between 13 and 30 Litres per flush (lpf). Newer high efficiency models use 5.5 lpf or less. A short-term conservation measure is to place a 2 litre bottle filled with pebbles or sand in the toilet tank. This displaces some of the water and saves close to 2 litres per flush. Another way to save water is to reduce the number of flushes by not using the toilet as a trash can.

Showerheads manufactured before 1978 use 11 to 38 Litres per minute (lpm). Showerheads manufactured after 1978 use 9.5 lpm.

