

Top 10 Water Conservation Tips for Texans

From the Texas Living Waters Project

1. ***Only run the dishwasher or washing machine with a full load.*** If it is time to replace either of these appliances, check in with your utility about rebates for water-conserving versions and purchase those instead.
2. ***Water your lawn on the right day.*** Are you odd or even? Most Texas cities restrict outdoor water use to one or two days a week during times of drought. Save water and avoid fines by learning *and* following your city's schedule.
3. ***Catch the condensation from your AC unit and use it in your yard.*** Depending on how your air conditioner is programmed, it can produce gallons of water per day. Catch that water in a bucket and put it on your garden, shrubs and trees.
4. ***Turn the water off when you brush your teeth.*** This simple step can save up to 8 gallons of water per day.
5. ***Fix leaky faucets.*** Leaky faucets can waste up to 7 gallons of water per day. To check for leaks at home, read your water meter and avoid using water for 2 hours. Read the meter again after this period. If the amount is different, you have a leak.
6. ***Fix running toilets.*** Running toilets can waste a lot of water. Fix these leaks as soon as you find them. Check with the manufacturer of your toilet for the proper replacement "flapper" to ensure maximum efficiency.
7. ***Inspect your irrigation system.*** Have your system inspected by your water utility or a certified irrigator to make sure it is operating correctly, identify any problems and help you set it to run more efficiently. Many cities offer free inspections.
8. ***Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.*** These water saving devices are cheap and easy to install. Many utilities give them away to their customers. Check with your utility and pick up a few extras to share with your neighbors!
9. ***Install a high efficiency toilet.*** Toilets account for about 25% of water used in the home. Depending on the age of your toilet, you can save up to 5 gallons per flush by replacing older models. Check with your city for possible rebates.
10. ***Make water conservation a whole-family activity.*** Challenge your family members to think of new ways to save water and to be part of the solution.

Texas Living Waters is a partnership project of the National Wildlife Federation and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that seeks to balance human demands for water with the need to ensure adequate water for fish and wildlife. Our goal is to achieve environmentally and economically sustainable management of Texas' limited water resources. Visit us at www.TexasWaterMatters.org.