

EVERY DROP COUNTS



You Can Help!

Drought conditions in Nebraska are prompting recommendations to conserve water. Simple actions to reduce your water use can add up to make a big difference.

Bonus: Using water efficiently also saves you money!



Consider these simple actions to help reduce water usage in and around your home.

TEST THE TOILET

An old or worn flapper can make your toilet silently leak thousands of gallons a year. Checking for toilet leaks is easy! Put 10-15 drops of food coloring or a dye tablet in the toilet tank. Wait 30 minutes without flushing. After 30 minutes, if the water in the bowl turns a color, your toilet tank is leaking. The most common cause is a worn out flapper - a very easy part to replace.

[More toilet tips »](#)



FILL 'EM UP

Depending on the style of machine & when it was made, a washing machine can be responsible for up to 20% of home water use. Newer, water-sensing machines are highly efficient. But when using an older machine or dishwasher, make sure you have full loads to save water. Ask yourself - does it need to be run now or can you wait until the load is full? Is it time to upgrade your machines?

[Tips for a water-efficient home »](#)



FIX THE DRIPS

According to the EPA, a leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take 180+ showers! Do a full-home inventory to check every faucet & all outdoor hose connectors. If you find drips, call a plumber & get them fixed!

[Tips for wise water use »](#)



CHECK SPRINKLERS

Each year, an estimated 30% of residential water goes to outdoor use. In summer, it can be as high as 70%. That's a lot of opportunity to save! Ask yourself: Is the sprinkler aimed at plants & grass, or wasting water on pavement? Instead of watering in the heat of the day, could you save water & do it early in the morning? Are you overwatering? To find out: Place a few empty containers around your lawn while you're watering. Measure how long it takes to fill them to 1/2 inch of water. Most yards only need 1 inch a week, so water like this twice a week & you're set! And if it rains, skip the watering!

[Water-wise landscaping »](#)

[Set up a rain barrel »](#)



SPEEDY SHOWERS

A full bathtub uses an average of 70 gallons of water. A 10-minute shower uses only 25 gallons of water. Want to save water? Time your shower! Every minute in the shower uses about 2.5 gallons of water. Cutting just one minute from your shower can save a whopping 912 gallons per year! To do even more, consider a low-flow shower head, which uses just 2 gallons of water per minute.

[How much water do you use? »](#)



TURN OFF THE TAP

You've likely heard it before, but turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth can make a big difference! Turning off the tap while brushing saves up to 8 gallons of water daily (or 4 gallons per 2-minute period!) Are there other times you could turn off the tap while doing something? For example, while shaving, washing your hands, or doing the dishes? Make a list, time your water waste, & then pick your top ways to save!

[Water conservation tips »](#)



Create Your Own Pledge!



Write your **Water Conservation Pledge** on the next page!



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TIP: Write your water conservation pledge using the "SMART goal" format:

Specific (it includes clear details), **M**easurable (you can quantify your progress),

Achievable (it's realistic for you), **R**elevant (to YOU), and **T**ime-Bound (has a start/stop date)

WHAT PLEDGE WILL YOU MAKE TO CONSERVE WATER?

(Examples: "I will time my shower every day for a week - then set a timer for the next month & take showers that are 2 minutes shorter. I will check all the toilets in my house for leaks & fix them if I find any issues. I will check my automated sprinklers to ensure they are watering the garden not the sidewalk or driveway, & set them to water twice weekly at dawn.")

WHAT RESOURCES WILL YOU NEED TO STICK TO IT?

(Brainstorm what you need to achieve your pledge, and who can help support you! Examples: "I will hang a timer in the bathroom so I can time my shower daily. I will need my family's help to check our faucets for drips. I will ask my sprinkler company to help me check automated sprinkler heads and reset timers for twice-weekly watering.")

I PLEDGE TO CONSERVE AND SAVE WATER. I WILL CONSIDER THE WAYS I USE WATER IN MY DAILY ACTIVITIES AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN MY WATER USE.

SIGNED:

DATE:
