## Over 100 Ways to Save!

- 1. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.
- 2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- 3. Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.
- 4. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- 5. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- 6. Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
- 7. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- 8. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- 9. Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- 10. For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- 11. Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- 12. Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- 13. Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- 14. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- 15. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
- 16. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- 17. Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- 18. If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

- 19. We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- 20. If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.
- 21. Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.
- 22. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.
- 23. Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- 24. Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
- 25. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- 26. When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
- 27. Use sprinklers for large areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- 28. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- 29. When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- 30. Walkways and patios provide space that doesn't ever need to be watered. These useful "rooms" can also add value to your property.
- 31. Collect water from your roof to water your garden.
- 32. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- 33. Rather than following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two to three inches below the surface before watering.
- 34. Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.
- 35. Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- 36. Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.
- 37. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.

- 38. Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
- 39. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- 40. Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- 41. Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.
- 42. Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- 43. Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- 44. Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- 45. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- 46. Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- 47. To decrease water from being wasted on sloping lawns, apply water for five minutes and then repeat two to three times.
- 48. Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while underwatering others.
- 49. Use a layer of organic material on the surface of your planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.
- 50. Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and drought tolerant landscape.
- 51. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air.
- 52. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- 53. Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- 54. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- 55. Use a rain gauge, or empty tuna can, to track rainfall on your lawn. Then reduce your watering accordingly.
- 56. Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.

- 57. Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case it malfunctions or you get an unexpected rain.
- 58. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
- 59. If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- 60. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- 61. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- 62. Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
- 63. Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if you have a leak.
- 64. If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- 65. Use a trowel, shovel, or soil probe to examine soil moisture depth. If the top two to three inches of soil are dry it's time to water.
- 66. If installing a lawn, select a turf mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
- 67. When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.
- 68. When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- 69. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
- 70. Bathe your young children together.
- 71. Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.
- 72. Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
- 73. Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- 74. Wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your lawn at the same time.
- 75. Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
- 76. Direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems toward water-loving plants in the landscape for automatic water savings.

- 77. Make suggestions to your employer about ways to save water and money at work.
- 78. Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.
- 79. Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
- 80. Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
- 81. If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- 82. Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- 83. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
- 84. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- 85. Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- 86. Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.
- 87. Plant with finished compost to add water-holding and nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil.
- 88. Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
- 89. Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
- 90. Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- 91. One more way to get eight glasses of water a day is to re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.
- 92. Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.
- 93. Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
- 94. Wash your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- 95. When shopping for a new clothes washer, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some of these can save up to 20 gallons per load, and energy too.
- 96. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.

- 97. Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- 98. When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink basin or a large container and rinse when all of the dishes have been soaped and scrubbed.
- 99. Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output. One inch of water on one square foot of grass equals two-thirds of a gallon of water.
- 100. Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- 101. When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- 102. If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink.

  Drop them in a house plant instead.
- 103. To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
- 104. While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
- 105. When backflushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
- 106. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- 107. Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent using the garbage disposal.
- 108. When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant.
- 109. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.
- 110. When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.