



# Water Conservation Tips

DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE  
Division of Rate Counsel



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## Using Water Efficiently

*Conservation Can Make a Difference*

When you look at your water bill, are you using more water than you thought? You'd be surprised how much you can save by water conservation. It not only will help save water, it will also save you money. The following tips can help you live a more water-wise lifestyle both inside and outside of your home:

- ◆ Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving.
- ◆ When purchasing a new toilet, consider one that uses less than the five to seven gallons of water a conventional toilet uses.
- ◆ Never pour water down the drain if there is another use for it such as watering a plant or cleaning around the home.
- ◆ Sweep patios, driveways, and sidewalks. Never hose paved surfaces.
- ◆ When washing your car, be conservative; wash with a bucket and only turn on the hose to wet and rinse your vehicle.
- ◆ Collect and use rainwater for watering your garden.
- ◆ Check your sprinkler system regularly and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- ◆ Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubs or trees.
- ◆ Cover your pool when not in use to prevent water evaporation.
- ◆ Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest setting. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.
- ◆ Insulate hot water tanks and hot water pipes to reduce water-heating costs and save water; insulation keeps the water hotter longer and wastes less water.
- ◆ Install a high-pressure, low flow showerhead for more efficient water use.
- ◆ Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste instead of using a garbage disposal.
- ◆ Take food out of the freezer early and place in the refrigerator to allow plenty of time for thawing. Thawing frozen goods under a running faucet wastes water.

You will find additional water conservation tips in Rate Counsel's Consumer Conservation Handbook, which can be downloaded from

[www.state.nj.us/publicadvocate/utility](http://www.state.nj.us/publicadvocate/utility)

or by calling for a free copy at 973-648-2690. A few other resources for water conservation are:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

[www.epa.gov/watersense/tips/cons.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/tips/cons.htm)

Also, the EPA offers water conservation ideas for kids: [www.epa.gov/water/kids.html](http://www.epa.gov/water/kids.html)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

[www.fema.gov/areyouready/appendix\\_a.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/appendix_a.shtm)

The American Red Cross:

[www.redcross.org/static/file\\_cont162\\_lang0\\_70.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont162_lang0_70.pdf)