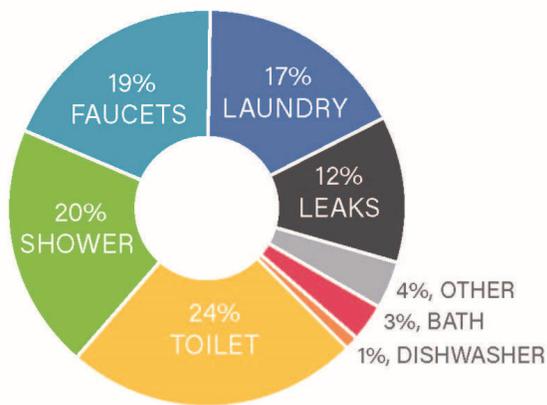


Indoor Water Conservation

Where does my water go?

Here is a look at where the average home uses its indoor water, according to the Water Research Foundation.



Opportunities to save water can be found throughout your home. Below are some tips for addressing the thirstiest culprits.

Toilets

Install a water displacement device in the toilet tank if you have an older toilet that uses more than 1.6 gallons per flush. You can buy a displacement bag at the hardware store, or make one by filling a plastic bottle with water and adding a few stones or marbles to weigh it down. Place it in the tank in the back of the toilet, out of the way of the flushing hardware.

Replace old toilets. High-efficiency models use only 1.28 gallons per flush. There are even some models available that use just 1 gallon per flush!

Showers

Install water-efficient showerheads – it's an easy way to save water. **You can get FREE water-saving showerheads** at City Hall. For more information: call 541-459-2856, email admin@ci.sutherlin.or.us, or stop by City Hall. They use 1.5 gallons of water per minute, compared to 2.5 gallons per minute with a standard showerhead. The best part is that you'll hardly notice the difference! Today's water-efficient showerheads save water without affecting the water pressure of your shower. They can be attached to any shower connection.



1.5 gallons per minute NRG Spray Clean Economy showerhead offered by the City of Sutherlin

Take the six-minute shower challenge. A six-minute shower with a standard showerhead uses about 13 gallons of water. Can you shower in six minutes? How about five? Give it a try and see how fast you can be! The shorter the shower, the more water and money you'll save.

Faucets

Install faucet aerators. You can get FREE bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators at City Hall. For more information, call 541-459-2856, email admin@ci.sutherlin.or.us, or stop by City Hall. With an aerator on your bathroom faucet, you'll use only 1 gallon of water for every minute the sink is running. With a kitchen sink aerator, you'll use 1.5 gallons every minute. Both types of aerators are compatible with nearly all faucet connection.



1.0 and 1.5 gallons per minute Niagara Conservation bubble spray faucet aerators offered by the City of Sutherlin

Use blasts of water to rinse dishes instead of letting the water run. When washing dishes by hand, scrub with the water off, and turn the water on only while you are actively rinsing a dish. Or, fill a basin with hot soapy water, wash the dishes, and then rinse them.

Wash leafy greens in a bowl of water instead of under a running faucet. This not only saves water, it also gets your vegetables cleaner!

Avoid thawing frozen foods under running water. You can thaw frozen meat by moving it to the refrigerator the day before you need it. If you forget to move it to the fridge in advance, use your microwave's defrost setting.

Laundry

Wait to do laundry until you have a full load. Typical washing machines use more than 50 gallons of water per cycle, regardless of how many items you are washing. If you have a small pile of clothes to wash, wait until you have more items to add in.

When it's time for an upgrade, replace your machine with a high-efficiency washer. Look for a WaterSense label, or a machine with a "Water Factor" of 9.5 or less (the number of gallons required to wash one cubic foot of clothes).

Leaks

Check for drips and leaks. Inspect every faucet, toilet, and showerhead around the house for leaks. A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons of water a day. Larger leaks and running toilets can use up to 100 gallons of water per day or more.

Add a few drops of food coloring to your toilet tank. Drop the food coloring in the toilet tank, and wait at least 15 minutes without flushing. Then, if you see any food color in the toilet bowl, it means your toilet has a leak. The flapper or fill valve are the most likely culprits. Fortunately, both are easy to fix with few or no tools.