



Saving Water makes Cents

Be Water and Energy Wise!

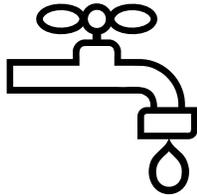
Water is our most precious natural resource. Using water wisely prevents water waste and helps protect our water supply for future generations.

The City of Houston pumps more than 390 millions of gallons of water each day from Lake Houston and Lake Livingston and underground wells to be treated, disinfected and delivered to our 2.8 million customers. Houston's treated drinking water is monitored for more than 100 contaminants and must comply with almost 90 water quality and safety regulations before it is piped to your home.



Every time we turn on a faucet or flush a toilet we are using treated drinking water. And when we heat water for cooking, hand washing, bathing, and washing dishes and clothes, we are also consuming energy.

The following tips can help your family and the building owner save water and energy.



Report water leaks to building staff immediately.

A leaking toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons a day. A faucet dripping just one drop each second wastes 2,700 gallons a year. Maintenance staff can fix most leaks quickly and inexpensively, so please report leaks fast.

A showerhead leaking ten drops a minute wastes more than 500 gallons a year – that's enough water to run a dishwasher 60 times.

Save Water in the Bathroom

Most of the water wasted at home is wasted in the bathroom. Taking shorter showers saves water and energy! *La mayoría del agua es malgastada en el baño. ¡Tomar duchas más cortas ahorra agua y energía!*

Source: EnergyHog.com, www.energyhog.org/childrens.htm

You can save energy just by turning off the water while you are brushing your teeth or taking a shower instead of a bath. *Puede ahorrar energía solo con cerrar el grifo mientras se cepilla los dientes o con ducharse en vez de bañarse.*

Source: Junior Energy, www.juniorenergy.org

By installing energy-saving showerheads in your home, you can cut heating and water costs up to 16%! *Por instalar cabezas de la ducha que ahorren energía, ¡puede recortar los costos de calentamiento y agua hasta el 16%! Source: Black & Decker, www.blackanddecker.com/Energy/news.aspx?view=TipsTrends*



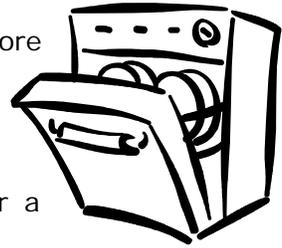
Wasting water wastes energy, so don't use the toilet as a trash can. *Malgastar el agua es malgastar la energía, entonces no usar el inodoro como basurero.*

Source: EnergyHog.com, www.energyhog.org/childrens.htm

Save Water in the Kitchen

Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. Wait until the dishwasher is full before turning it on.

Use cold instead of hot water to rinse dishes—hot water also uses more energy. Use el agua fría en vez del agua caliente para enjuagar los platos—el agua caliente usa más energía también. Source: EnergyHog.com, www.energyhog.org/childrens.htm



When washing dishes by hand, wash and rinse dishes in the sink or a dishpan, not with running water.

Letting your faucet run for 5 minutes uses about as much energy as letting a 60-watt light bulb run for 14 hours. Dejar correr el agua del grifo por 5 minutos es casi igual que dejar encendida una bombilla de 60 vatios por 14 horas.

Source: EPA WaterSense Program, www.epa.gov/WaterSense

Wash clothes in cold water and only in full loads to conserve both energy and water. *Lave la ropa en agua fría y sólo cuando la lavadora esté llena, de esta forma se conservan energía y agua al mismo tiempo.*

Source: U.S. EPA – Energy Conservation, www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/p2pages/energy.pdf

Keep a container of cold tap water in the refrigerator at all times so you don't have to run the faucet unnecessarily.

Bottled water can be convenient but it is often no healthier than tap water. Save money by filling a reusable container with water from your faucet. About one-fourth of commercially-bottled water is purchased from municipal treatment plants, and then bottled and resold for 1,000 times more money.

Houston tap water is about 1,000 times cheaper than bottled water and more closely tested for contaminants.

Resources:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/02/0224_060224_bottled_water.html

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/ for more water-saving information.

For Building Owners – Fix, retrofit or replace as appropriate

Toilets installed before 1994 use 3 to 5 gallons per flush (gpf). After 1994, low-flow toilets were built to use 1.6 gallons per flush. The new ultra-low flow toilets use only 1.28 gpf.

Install low-flow aerators on kitchen and bathroom sink faucets. Aerators add air bubbles into the water stream to achieve good water pressure with less volume.



If one out of every 100 American homes retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures, we could save about 100 million kWh of electricity per year. *Si una de cada 100 casas estadounidenses se actualizaran con aparatos que usan el agua eficientemente, podríamos ahorrar alrededor de 100 millones de kilovatio-horas de electricidad por año.*

Source: U.S. EPA – Energy Conservation, www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/p2pages/energy.pdf

For more information on how to save water go to www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov or send an email to apartment.conservation@houstontx.gov