

## 50 Ways to Conserve Water & Lower Your Water Bill

Nevada law requires public water utilities to implement conservation plans that include programs and incentives to encourage consumers to conserve water. These plans must be approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). Check with your water utility to see if the company offers rebates for purchasing high-efficiency washing machines or removing turf, or if the company offers water audits for homes and businesses. But even without an incentive, there are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you!

### IN GENERAL:

1. Monitor your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
2. Fix leaky faucets and running toilets and other household leaks. An American home, on average, can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to leaks.
3. Installing low-flow faucet aerators can reduce the amount of water coming out of your faucet by 50 percent, saving about 2,000 gallons of water annually for two faucets. Choose aerators with a 1.5 gallon per minute (GPM) flow rate for bathrooms and 2.2 GPM for kitchen or laundry sinks.
4. Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.

### IN THE KITCHEN:

5. When washing dishes, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with water and the other with rinse water.
6. Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
7. Use the garbage disposal sparingly.
8. Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
9. Collect the water used for washing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
10. Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
11. Run your dishwasher only when it is full and scrape your dishes rather than rinsing them before putting them in the dishwasher.
12. Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost the food in the refrigerator overnight.

### IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM:

13. Wash only full loads of laundry or match the water level to the size of the load.
14. A high efficiency washing machine can save more than 50% in laundry water and energy use.


### IN THE BATHROOM:

15. Toilets consume about 24% of the water used inside the home. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

16. Installing an early-closure flapper in your toilet can save as much as 1.5 gallons per flush.
17. Investing in a high-efficiency toilet can save more than 4,000 gallons of water per person each year.
18. About 20% percent of the water used in your home is from showers. Replace any showerhead that allows a flow of more than 2.5 gallons per minute with those that have a flow rating of 2.0 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
19. Limit the length of your showers to 5 minutes or less. A family of four taking daily 5-minute showers with a high-efficiency showerhead can save more than 20,000 gallons of water each year.
20. Take more showers than baths because showers use less water than baths.
21. If you do take a bath, don't fill the tub all the way and plug the bathtub before turning the water on. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
22. In-line water heaters or re-circulating systems can save up to 30 gallons of water per day.

### IN THE YARD:

23. Check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks and replace broken or missing parts.
24. Use the most efficient types of nozzles and irrigation clocks.



**WATER REGULATION**

The PUCN oversees the administration of conservation plans established by investor-owned water utilities, including rebates and other programs that encourage consumers to conserve. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 704.567 outlines the general requirements for water utility conservation plans.

*Pursuant to statute, the PUCN does not regulate the Southern Nevada Water Authority or the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.*

### NORTHERN NEVADA

1150 E. Williams St., Carson City, NV 89701

Ph: (775) 684-6101 | Fax: (775) 684-6110

Consumer Complaints: (775) 684-6100

[puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov)

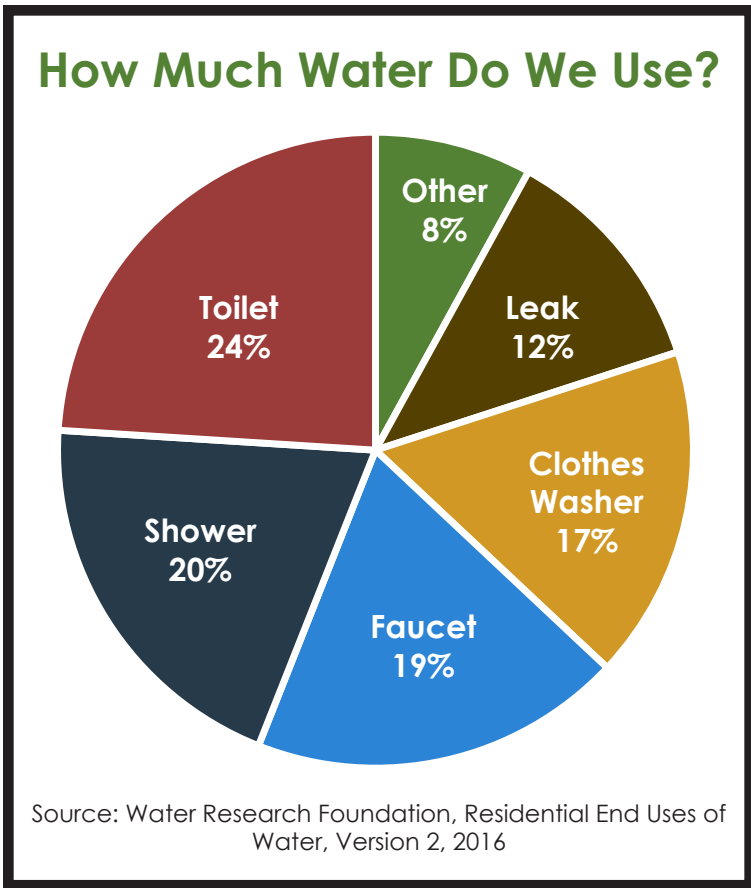
### SOUTHERN NEVADA

9075 W. Diablo Dr., #250, Las Vegas, NV 89148

Ph: (702) 486-7210 | Fax: (702) 486-7206

Consumer Complaints: (702) 486-2600

25. Adjust your irrigation clock seasonally and comply with mandatory watering restrictions in your area.
26. Water shaded areas 30 percent less than sunny areas.
27. Monitor how many minutes you can run your spray irrigation system before water begins to run off the property. Stop the cycle at that point.
28. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
29. Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
30. Don't water lawns on windy days to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways.
31. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
32. To reduce runoff and allow for better absorption, set your irrigation clock to cycle 2 to 4 start times no longer than 4 minutes each, 1 to 2 hours apart.
33. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinkler to eliminate unnecessary watering.
34. Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is very effective.
35. Use a sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
36. When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
37. Consider replacing grass with shrubs and increasing ground cover areas with rock and mulching. Grass requires more water than many landscape plants.
38. Avoid planting turf in hard-to-water areas such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
39. Plant during the spring or fall when watering requirements are lower.
40. Use regionally appropriate, low water-using and native plants. Once established, these plants require little water beyond normal rainfall.



41. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
42. Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
43. Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.
44. Weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with plants for nutrients, light and water.
45. Use a cover on your pool and spa when not in use to reduce evaporation.
46. Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device.
47. Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.
48. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
49. When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off valve.
50. Wash your car with water from a bucket or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Much of the information in this fact sheet came from snwa.com, the Southern Nevada Water Authority's website, and from the U.S. Environmental Protection's WaterSense website, epa.gov/watersense.

Contact your local water utility online or by phone to learn about programs the company may have to encourage your participation in water conservation. Contact information is located on your monthly bill.

Visit [water.nv.gov/waterconservationplans.aspx](http://water.nv.gov/waterconservationplans.aspx) for lists of approved water utility conservation plans maintained by the Nevada Division of Water Resources.