



Water-Wise Ways

Bathroom:

- Put the stopper in the tub before you turn on the water for a bath. The cold water that comes out first will mix with the hot water later.
- Don't overfill the tub for a bath. Use only about 5 inches of water or less.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. Use a cup of water to rinse your mouth.
- When washing your hands or face, turn off the faucet while you lather up.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Throw tissues, bugs, and paper towels in the trash rather than in the toilet.
- See how quickly you can shower and still come out clean. Keep the shower at a lower pressure than you usually do.

Kitchen:

- Wash the dishes in a basin rather than with the water running to reduce water and energy use.
- Use two basins when you wash dishes by hand: one basin with soapy water to wash in and one with clean water to rinse.
- Save water by soaking dishes with baked-on food before you wash them. Explain to an adult why you're waiting to wash the dishes so they won't get upset.
- By using the garbage disposal less often, you'll save water. Instead, start a compost pile for vegetable food waste.
- Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator for cold drinking water. That way you won't waste water while you wait for it to get cold.
- Operate the dishwasher only with a full load. This saves water and electricity!
- Use the correct size pan for cooking foods. When boiling, add water so that it just covers the food.

Laundry Room:

- If you help with the laundry, use the load size setting that matches the amount of clothes you have to wash. If your washer does not have a load size setting dial, wash only full loads of clothing.
- Don't put clothes in the wash until they're actually dirty. It's okay to wear pants and shirts more than once before washing if they're not dirty.

Throughout the house:

- Check all the faucets inside and outside your house for leaks. Also, check the toilet for leaks. Ask an adult to have any leaks fixed.



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- When you help out around the house (doing the dishes, laundry, or other cleaning), use the least possible amount of soap that will get the job done. This saves on rinse water.
 - Pour water from fish tanks and extra drinking water on houseplants or in the garden, instead of down the drain.

In the yard:

- Water the lawn long enough for water to seep down to the grass roots. This way the lawn doesn't need to be watered as often. A light sprinkle will not reach the roots, and the water will just dry up (evaporate).
- Water the lawn in the early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Ask an adult to help you place mulch around the bases of trees and shrubs and in flower and vegetable gardens. Mulch holds water in the soil, so you don't need to water as often.
- Avoid splashing water out of swimming pools.
- If you help wash the car, ask an adult to park on the grass. This allows water to enter the ground rather than the storm sewers (where it, and all of that soap, goes straight into rivers and the ocean!)