

## What Can We Do To Save Water?

During the summer months, and throughout the year, consider minimizing non-essential water usage, check often for leaks, and make repairs in a timely fashion.

Check for water faucet leaks; these are easy to detect. If your faucet drips or, even worse, does not shut off, it needs to be fixed. If the water is hot, it is costing you additional money to heat the water. Water dripping from a showerhead when the shower is off or running out of the tub spout when the shower is on is usually caused by a bad washer or seat that needs to be replaced.

According to the EPA, replacing just one showerhead with a water efficient model can save the average family as much as 2,900 gallons of water a year, or more than \$70 in energy and water costs.

Imagine that the 1/16-inch dot below was the only leak in your home's water system. While it looks minimal and you may want to consider just letting it go, that leak can waste more than enough water for a person to take showers for a year.



Check for toilet leaks. Toilet leaks, which often go unnoticed, are frequently caused by worn or damaged parts in the toilet flush tank. Some toilet leaks are hard to find because they only happen periodically, rather than all the time. Have you ever been asleep and all of a sudden been awakened by the sound of water pressure filling the toilet in the middle of the night, but no one was in the bathroom? I bet most of us have heard this sound more than once. It's most likely the result of a damaged toilet part, or occasionally some foreign material or dirt in the tank that doesn't allow the valve to seat properly.

### Steps to check for toilet leak:

- Remove the lid from the tank and drop a small amount of food coloring into the tank.
- Wait 10-20 minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, repairs need to be made or the flapper valve (flush valve) needs to be adjusted.
- If you can hear water running, it may mean that water is running over the overflow tube in the tank, which will need to be repaired. None of these parts are hard to replace or repair. Most homeowners are able to make the repairs. If you haven't done this type of work before, a useful tip is to watch a YouTube video on how to fix or repair a leaking toilet.

