

Saving Water & Energy

Simple changes in habits can really add up when cutting down on water usage:

- Take showers instead of baths, save about 30 gallons each time
- Take a shorter shower; a brisk 5 minute scrub-down versus a 15 minute session saves almost 20 gallons
- Don't let the faucet run while washing dishes, brushing your teeth or shaving. Save 1-2 gallons each time
- Wash only full loads of clothes, or if so equipped, adjust the water level to the size of load. Your water saving are about 1/3, that amounts to almost 13 gallons a load.
- Only run the dishwasher when it is full; each cycle takes about 6 gallons even if only 2 plates and a fork are in there so load it up!



For an average family, replacing the following and turning down your water heater. can save an estimated 770 kWh per year. At 10 cents/kWh that saves \$77 a year (assume electric water heater and private well/septic system):

- Replace the following items:
 - 1 Showerhead with a 1.5 gpm (gallon per minute) high-efficiency system
 - 1 Kitchen sink aerator with 1.5 gpm version
 - 1 Bathroom sink aerators with 1 gpm versions
- Turn down thermostats on water heater to 120 F

High efficiency, reduced flow faucets and appliances are available at your local hardware stores and home improvement centers.

Clothes Washers

The Clothes Washing Machine is another large water user. A standard washer can use an average of 41 gallons a load. An Energy Star rated washing machine uses about 1/2 of that. Manufacturers and Utilities (such as Crow Wing Power) offer incentives and rebates for purchasing Energy Star washing machines.