

The WaterLine

P e n n i c h u c k W a t e r

Go-Green: Saving Water— Saving Money!

**Conservation—
Saving water and
money inside your
home with these
common practices***

Habit Forming Water-Saver Chart

Save up to 8 gallons or more per day:

Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush and use a glass for mouth rinsing.

Save up to 8 gallons or more per day:

Rinse the razor in the sink. Fill bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water.

Save from 1.3 to 7 gallons or more per day:

Never use the toilet as a waste basket.

Save up to 25 gallons or more per day:

Take shorter showers. Showers use about five to ten gallons of water a minute plus the energy to heat it.

Save up to 10 gallons or more per day:

Keep empty pitchers in your kitchen and bathroom to collect water from the faucet or shower while waiting for it to get hot. Then use this water for plants, gardens, bird baths and pets.

Save up to 10 gallons or more per day:

Wash vegetables and fruits in a basin with a vegetable brush.

Save up to 15 gallons or more per day:

Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

Save up to 10 gallons or more per day:

Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.

Save up to 11 gallons or more per day:

Scrap, rather than rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher; wash only full loads.

Save up to 20 gallons or more per day:

If washing dishes by hand, use two basins, one for washing and one for rinsing, rather than a running faucet.

Save up to 5 gallons or more per day:

Add food waste to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.

Save up to 20 gallons or more per day:

Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

** Please note that savings are based on average usage and could be more or less, depending on individual usage, appliances and fixtures.*

It's Time to Test Your WaterSense!

The average person unknowingly wastes up to 30 gallons of water every day. And since usable water is a limited resource, at least 36 states could be facing water shortage problems by 2013.

How well do you understand your own water usage? Do you know how to best save water in your home? Test your knowledge with the following quiz, and find out if you're a WaterSense novice, expert, or genius!

- 1. The average family of four uses approximately ___ gallons of water per day?**
 - A. 50
 - B. 100
 - C. 250
 - D. 400
- 2. How much of the water on earth is available for people's everyday use?**
 - A. More than 50%
 - B. 28%
 - C. Less than 1%
 - D. 12%
- 3. How much water can you save per day by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime?**
 - A. Up to 2 gallons
 - B. Up to 4 gallons
 - C. Up to 8 gallons
 - D. Up to 6 gallons
- 4. Which of the following uses less water?**
 - A. Taking a five minute shower
 - B. Taking a bath
- 5. In the average household, which of the following wastes the MOST water per day?**
 - A. Running the tap while washing dishes
 - B. Using a garbage disposal
 - C. A leaky toilet
 - D. Long showers
- 6. How much water is saved per flush with a high-efficiency toilet?**
 - A. 0.6 to 1.9 gallons
 - B. 2.2 to 5.7 gallons
 - C. More than 6 gallons

- 7. How much water used for irrigating lawns and gardens, on average, is wasted due to overwatering and evaporation?**
- A. 50% C. 15%
B. 25% D. 10%
- 8. A water-efficient irrigation system may include which features?**
- A. Drip irrigation C. Rain shut-off device
B. Moisture sensors D. All of the above
- 9. Which of the following uses less water?**
- A. Washing dishes under a running tap
B. Washing dishes in a fully loaded automatic dishwasher without pre-rinsing
- 10. Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. population grew by 89 percent; approximately how much has our water use grown in the same period?**
- A. 200% C. 100%
B. 50% D. 25%
- 11. High-efficiency washing machines save about how much water per load compared to traditional models?**
- A. 2-5 gallons C. 11-13 gallons
B. 7-10 gallons D. 14 gallons or more
- 12. Easily corrected household water leaks account for what percentage of the average water bill?**
- A. 2% C. 6%
B. 4% D. 8%

Please find answers on back page!

Water-Efficient Plumbing Fixtures Save Money.



According to the NHDES, fixtures manufactured before 1994 generally use 20% to 50% more water than new fixtures. The USEPA developed a program called **WaterSense** that enables consumers to easily identify water-efficient plumbing fixtures that do not sacrifice performance or quality. Look for this label when purchasing new toilets and bathroom faucets and expect exceptional performance while conserving water which will save on your water bill!

- Consider purchasing *WaterSense* labeled **high-efficiency** toilets or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your conventional toilet. (Be sure the container does not interfere with the operation of the toilet's flush mechanism.)
- Install **low-flow** *WaterSense* labeled faucet aerators.
- Install **low-flow** shower heads.
- Consider purchasing a **high-efficiency** washing machine which can **save over 50%** in laundry water and energy use. The Federal Energy Bill passed in 2007 establishes water efficiency standards for dish washers and washing machines, and will be effective in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Leak Detection Conserves Water & Saves Money.

Inspect all pipes and faucets for leaks— 100's of gallons a day could be dripping away.

Check toilets for leaks— could save 200 gallons per day. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the water in the bowl is tinted after about 15 minutes, you have a leak.

Leak detection at the water meter— First make sure all fixtures are turned off (including automatic ice-makers) and note the meter reading. After an hour or more check the meter, any change in the reading indicates a water leak.

WaterSense-Quiz Answer Key

- D** *It may seem hard to believe, but the average person uses 100 gallons of water each day— that's enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses. This water use can easily be cut by as much as 30 percent if American households took a few simple steps to use water more efficiently.*
- C** *About 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, but less than 1 percent of this is available for people to use. The rest is salt water, locked in inaccessible locations underground, or is frozen in polar ice caps and glaciers.*
- C** *The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute; by simply turning the tap off, you can save more than 100 gallons of water per person each month.*
- A** *Taking a five minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons of water, while a full tub requires about 70 gallons. If you take a bath, stopper the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.*
- C** *A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! To tell if your toilet is leaking, place a drop of food coloring in the tank; if the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.*
- B** *If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, you probably have an inefficient model that uses between 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush. New high-efficiency models use less than 1.3 gallons per flush— that's 60 to 80 percent less water than their less efficient counterparts.*
- A** *Water-efficient irrigation systems help save water, potentially more than 11 billion gallons per year across the United States. This is equal to the amount of water used by 3,200 garden hoses flowing constantly for one year!*
- D** *Inefficient or poorly maintained irrigation systems can waste water and money. Look for sprinklers that produce droplets— not mist. Systems with rain shutoff devices and moisture sensors reduce excess watering and runoff.*
- B** *To waste the least amount of water in the kitchen, operate your automatic dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Filling the sink or a bowl instead of running water can save an average of 25 gallons.*
- A** *With demand outstripping supply, 36 states anticipate some degree of water shortage by 2013.*
- D** *High-efficiency washing machines use less than 27 gallons of water per load, compared to traditional models that use an average of 41 gallons. To achieve even greater savings, adjust water levels in the washing machine to match the size of the load.*
- D** *Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water each year. If you're unsure if you have a leak, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.*

Scoring

9 or more questions correct:

Congratulations, you're a WaterSense genius!

You understand that water is a precious resource that must be used more efficiently. To learn more about the WaterSense program and how to be more water-efficient, visit <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>

6-8 questions correct:

You're a WaterSense expert!

Learn more about why water efficiency is important and how you can become more water-efficient, visit <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>

Less than 6 questions correct:

You're a WaterSense novice.

But that means there's room for improvement! Learn more about why water efficiency is important and how you can become more water-efficient, visit <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>



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