



Village of Bensenville Recommended Water Conservation Tips

Water-saving devices

Water use in the home

Toilets	28%
Clothes washing	22%
Showers	21%
Faucets	12%
Baths	9%
Toilet leakage	5%
Dish washing	3%

Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation.

Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.

Use plants that require less water.

Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.

Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine.

Use a low flow showerhead.

Wash only full loads.

Take shorter showers — five minutes or less is best.

Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth.

Turn off sink faucet while scrubbing dishes and pots.

Install new toilets that use less than 1.6 gallons per flush.

Put faucet aerators on sink faucets.

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and walkways.

What can I do to lower my water bill?

One option is to conserve water **within your home**. This can be as simple as **not running the water when washing the dishes, brushing your teeth or shaving**. Today's dishwashers are more efficient than washing your dishes by hand with the water running, so if you don't have one, just fill up one side of the sink with soapy water and the other side with clean water, and turn the faucet on when you need to rinse each dish. Get some water on your toothbrush and turn the water off until you need to rinse, and rinse your razor in the sink instead of under running faucet. This could save a few gallons a day. **Outside your home**, you could save water by **watering your plants/lawn less often, water during early morning hours to avoid evaporation, use micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, and use mulch to retain moisture in the soil**. Generally lawns only need watering every five to seven days 1/4 – 1/2 inch. (You can set a cup next to your sprinkler to measure the amount your sprinkler delivers). If you do not have an automatic shut-off mechanism attached to your hose, use a kitchen timer to remember to shut it off (**As much as 2,500 gallons of water can flow through a 5/8" garden hose in just one hour!**) and **always turn the hose off at the shut-off valve**. In addition, you can often save water by checking for leaks and dealing with them promptly.

How can I prevent a leak?

The only way to prevent a leak is regular maintenance of your home's plumbing structure. Check your reads regularly and compare reads on your bill to your own reads. Pay close attention to any changes in your bill or around your home, such as noisy toilets, drips or standing water in basements or crawlspaces, under sinks and in the bathrooms. **Make sure that the reads on your bill are actual (Read code – A) and not estimated (Read code – E or W). ***Call 630-594-1011 if you get two consecutive estimated bills***.**

What are some other ways to conserve water?

- Run your washing machine only when you have a full load of laundry to do. Doing a few half loads during the week just because it is convenient wastes a lot of water.
- Take showers instead of baths. Filling up a bathtub takes a LOT of gallons of water. A quick 3-4 minute shower should be all you need.
- In above said shower, make sure you have a low-flow shower head. Today's shower heads use air to make it feel like a regular shower head, so you don't lose much pressure at all.
- Fill up a water pitcher with water and put it in the fridge. Getting your cold drinking water from there saves you from letting the water run until it is nice and cold from the faucet, which can save a few gallons a month.
- Put something in the back of your toilet tank to displace some of the water. Be it a plastic bottle full of rocks or something else heavier than water, displacing even a liter of water for every flush will save a lot of water. And no, you won't lose any flushing power. *****Be sure not to obstruct the flushing mechanism inside your toilet tank***.**
- Put some rain barrels under your gutters. You can re-use rain water to water plants, clean the car, etc.