

## Tips for Lower Water Bills

- **Store cold water in the fridge.** Instead of running the tap and waiting for the water to cool off each time you want a cold glass of water, fill up a pitcher or two and store them in your refrigerator. This works well if you use a pitcher with a water filter attached.
- **Take shorter showers.** By reducing the time you shower by just four minutes, you can save almost 4,000 gallons of water per year. Focus on getting in and getting out. This can save as much as \$100 on an annual basis and may help you save money on other utility bills, such as gas and electricity.
- **Don't let the water run when shaving or brushing your teeth.** Don't make this mistake, since it's a complete waste of water. To rinse off your razor while shaving, just keep a cup of hot water next to you and dip it in every so often. When brushing your teeth, fill up your rinse cup and turn off the faucet.
- **Install a low-flow shower head.** Installing a low-flow shower head can reduce the amount of water you use while showering by as much as 50 percent.
- **Run full loads of dishes and laundry.** If you load your dishwasher properly, you'll fit in as much dishes as possible. Running it only when it's full reduces the number of times you need to run it. Likewise, to save water when doing laundry, only run the washer when you have a full load of dirty clothes.
- **Don't hand-wash dishes.** You use 1/6 less water by running a full load in the dishwasher. When you're rinsing your dishes before they go in, don't run the tap. Instead, fill up a container with a small amount of water and rinse off all the excess from your dishes with that.
- **Fix leaks.** This might seem obvious, but sometimes it is hard to tell that a faucet is leaking, especially if it doesn't make a sound. It is good to replace washers in faucets every few years, especially if you live in an older place.
- **Insulate water pipes.** Go to a hardware store and get some foam that is already cut in the shape of a pipe. Tape that to the pipes. This will help heat up your water faster, so you won't lose as much while you're waiting for it to heat.
- **MacGuyver your toilet to use less water.** There are a few ways to do this. You can install a low pressure toilet, similar to those popular in Europe. You can also fill two water bottles with an inch or two of sand or gravel and put them in the tank of the toilet. This will raise the water in the tank and trick it into using less per flush. See, we still are smarter than the machines.
- **Wash clothes in cold water.** It will get your clothes just as clean as hot water, it will preserve colors better, and it will save water and energy. There are no downsides to this tip. In fact, there are no downsides to conserving water, so just do it.
- **Add aerators to your faucets.** An aerator both reduces the amount of water your faucet uses and makes the flow more forceful. It attaches to the faucet head and adds air into the water stream, acting like a sieve to reduce the amount of water coming through the faucet head. Because the aerator compacts the water flowing through, it also increases water pressure. It's a win-win: increase performance and save money.