

## Calculate Water Ways

Understanding where and how much water we use is the first step in beginning to conserve one of our most precious resources. This simple home water checkup will allow you to understand household consumption, both indoors and outdoors. After calculating your water patterns, you can begin to conserve in ways that work best for your lifestyle.

### Indoor Water Use

**1. Showers.** Multiply the number of showers taken each day by members of your household by the average number of minutes spent in the shower; then multiply the results by 4 gallons per minute to determine water used for household showers each day.

$(\# \text{ showers}) \times (\# \text{ of minutes}) \times 4 \text{ gal/min} = \text{gal/day for showers.}$

**2. Baths.** Multiply the number of baths taken each day by 40 gallons to determine daily water used for baths

$(\# \text{ baths}) \times 40 \text{ gal} = \text{gal/day for baths.}$

**3. Toilets.** Multiply the number of people in your household by four flushes; then multiply the result times 5 gallons per flush to determine the amount of water used daily in your household toilets.

$(\# \text{ people}) \times 4 \text{ flushes/day} \times 5 \text{ gal/flush} = \text{gal/day for flushing.}$

**4. Faucets.** Total the number of times the household members use faucets to shave, brush teeth, and wash hands and faces. Multiply that number by the average minutes used; then multiply the result times 3 gallons per minute for the number of gallons used daily through faucets.

$(2 \text{ of uses}) \times \# \text{ of min}) \times 3 \text{ gal/min} = \text{gal/day through faucets.}$

**5. Laundry.** Multiply the number of loads of laundry washed each week times 55 gallons to determine gallons used per week. Divide the total by 7 to determine daily consumption.

$(\# \text{ of loads/week}) \times 55 \text{ gallons} \sim 7 = \text{gal/day for laundry}$

**6. Dishwasher.** Multiply the number of times the dishwasher is used each week times 15 gallons per load for the amount of water used weekly by the dishwasher. Divide that amount by 7 for daily consumption.

$(\# \text{ loads/week}) \times 15 \text{ gallons} \sim 7 = \text{gal/day for dishwasher.}$

**7. Hand Washing Dishes.** Multiply the number of times dishes are washed by hand each day times 3 gallons per minute; then multiply the results by the average number of min the water runs to determine daily water used for hand washing dishes.

$(\# \text{ of loads/day}) \times \# \text{ min}) \times 3 \text{ gal/min} = \text{gal/day for hand washing dishes.}$

Total the gallons used during each activities for your estimated daily indoor water consumption.

*Courtesy of the city of St. Petersburg*