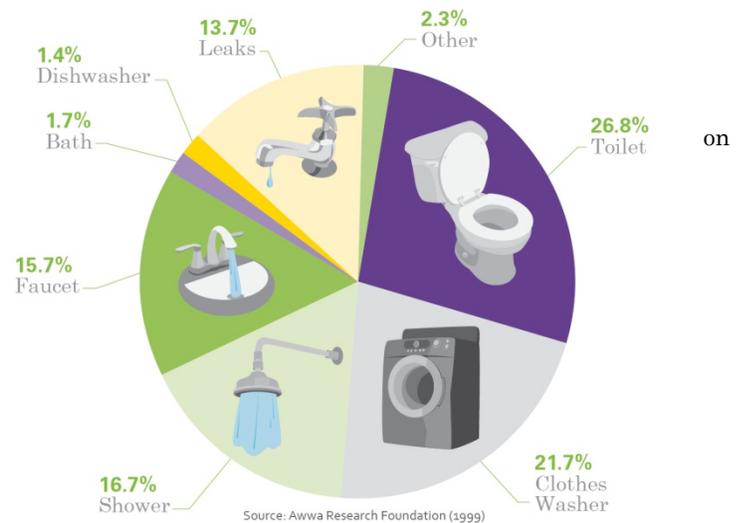


Water Conservation: *Tips for saving Water, Energy and Money*

Excerpts republished from Conserve Water Georgia. These and more tips may be found by visiting: www.conservewatergeorgia.net or www.epa.gov/watersense

Inside your home

1. **FIX THAT LEAK:** Correct a leaky faucet or toilet and save money: A leaky faucet can result in more than 3,000 gallons of water lost a year while a leaky toilet can result in over 200 gallons a day or 73,050 gallons of water a year. To find out if you have a leaky toilet, place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows in the bowl without you flushing, you have a leak. Search online on how to repair a leaky sink or toilet or go to a hardware store to learn more.
2. **GIVE YOUR SHOWER POWER:** Taking a bath requires about 70 gallons of water. If you choose to take a bath, place a stopper in the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. Another option is to take a 5-minute shower which only uses 10 to 25 gallons of water. You can purchase a water saving showerhead to reduce the flow.
3. **TURN IT OFF:** We've all heard it, but turning the water off while brushing your teeth can save up to 8 gallons a day or 2,880 gallons a year.
4. **MAKE IT A FULL LOAD:** The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. High efficiency machines use around 28 gallons per load. To save water, wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate load size selection your machine. Washing only full loads reduces the number of loads you wash per week.
5. **DON'T FLUSH MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN:** If you own a toilet made before 1993, you are flushing too much money down the drain by using over 3.5 gallons per flush. New high-efficiency models use less than 1.3 gallons per flush. Installing one new toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 per year on their water bill. This is over \$2,000 for the lifetime of the toilet.



Outside your home

1. **WATER EFFICIENTLY:** Look at the plant to see if it shows signs of moisture stress. Use a drip irrigation or micro spray to save about 30% to 50% of the water and water at night or in early morning to avoid losing water to evaporation.
2. **PUT THE RIGHT PLANTS IN THE RIGHT PLACES:** Read the plant tag and ensure it is appropriate for the location you want to plant it. Consider your slope and drainage patterns.
3. **ADD ORGANIC MATTER TO SOIL:** Compost or mulch improves the ability of the soil to hold water and nutrients.
4. **HARVEST WATER FOR IRRIGATION:** Whether from an air-conditioner, dehumidifier, or rainfall, collect water in rain barrels or cisterns to use for irrigation.

Due to recent droughts, the state and Augusta impose watering restrictions. See "Augusta Water Conservation Plan"

Tips for Understanding how to read your Water Meter

LEAK INDICATOR:

Turning when you aren't using water? You probably have a water leak.

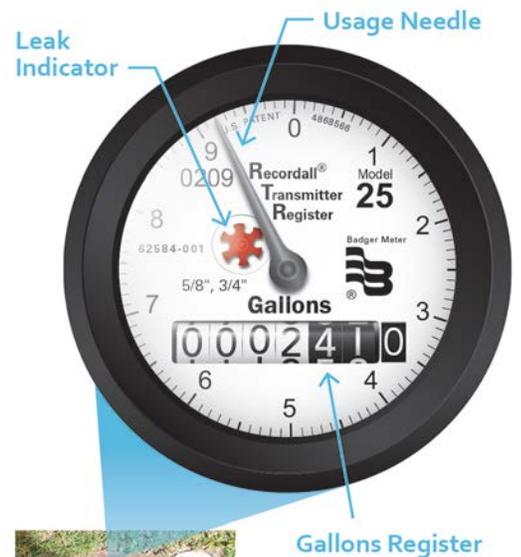
Check your bathrooms.

1. Without flushing, listen for water running in the toilet bowl.
2. Put food dye in the toilet tank; leave it for 15 minutes.
3. Check the toilet bowl for any food coloring.
4. If you hear water running or see food coloring in the bowl, you have a toilet leak.

Purchase and install a new flapper, and run the dye test again. If the toilet still leaks, replace the flush valve. If your water meter indicates a leak and none of your toilets are leaking, you may need to call a plumber or a leak detection service.

Gallons Register:

Augusta Utilities reads the gallons register and compares it to the last month's reading to determine water used. Gallons are rounded down, dropping the last three digits. In this example, the meter indicates two thousand gallons have been used.



Brenda Johnson