

Ripple Effect #6

9 Things You Can Do to Save Water in the Bathroom

Conserving water should become a part of our daily lives. The American Water Works has provided the following tips to help you save water everyday.

1. **Check your toilets for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. **Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.** Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bits of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water.
3. **Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank.** To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill them with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten or more gallons of water a day.
4. **Take shorter showers.** Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
5. **Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors.** Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water-saving showerheads or restrictors that are easy to install.
6. **Take baths.** A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.
7. **Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.** There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
8. **Rinse your razor in the sink.** Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This rinses your blade just as well as running water—and far less wastefully.
9. **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Larger leaks waste hundreds.

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our

offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at www.redriverbasincommission.org.