



# Safety and Environmental Newsletter

July 2020 — 99<sup>th</sup> Edition

## LAPTOP SAFETY



- Lithium-ion batteries are in commonplace electronics such as laptops and if not cared for properly, can pose dangers.
- Keep your laptop as cool as possible by turning it off when not in use, this includes when storing it in a laptop bag or case. Unplug it when not in use.
- Do not store in a vehicle or other non-air-conditioned place. Avoid leaving it in direct sunlight.
- Look for deformed or swollen batteries or open seams on the battery enclosure.
- If you notice any issues with your laptop battery, turn it off and unplug it immediately. Do not remove the battery or handle it. Contact the Enterprise Service Desk at <https://esd.nasa.gov/esdportal> or (877) 677-2123.

For additional information and resources about battery safety, visit the NASA Safety Center (NSC) website at <https://nsc.nasa.gov/>

## ERGONOMICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

- For anyone at Wallops Flight Facility that is interested in completing an ergonomics self-assessment, please visit the tool at <https://safety1st.gsfc.nasa.gov/form/ergonomics-self-assessment>





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## Summer Water Saving Tips

Try some of these tips to reduce your water use at home.



**1. Water your yard in the morning or evening.** Water evaporates quickly when the sun is high, so water when it's more likely to stay in the soil. Set your sprinkler to limit water to sidewalks or driveways. A drip irrigation system works better than sprinklers, as it sends targeted amounts of water exactly where you want it.

**2. Check for toilet leaks.** Put a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet into your toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl, your tank is leaking, wasting up to 100 gallons of water a day. An inexpensive rubber flapper may be all you need to fix it.



**3. Shorten your shower.** Trimming just two minutes off your shower can save up to 1,750 gallons of water per person in your household each year. Another easy trick is to turn the water off while you soap and/or shave. You can also capture the water that's normally wasted while you wait for the shower to warm up by collecting it in a bucket and use it for watering plants.

**4. Use the dishwasher.** Hand-washing your dishes can use up to 27 gallons of water, compared to just 3 gallons for a new Energy Star-rated dishwasher.



**5. Cover the pool.** If you have a backyard pool, make sure the water stays in it instead of evaporating. Try covering your pool when you're not using it.



**6. Go to the car wash.** Washing a car at home can easily use 100 gallons of water, not to mention an awful lot of time and effort; commercial car washes often use only 40 gallons or less of fresh water.

**7. Install a rain barrel.** Collect the water that streams off your roof when it rains by setting up a rain barrel underneath your gutter's downspout. Then reuse that water in your garden.



Source: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/peter-lehner/7-easy-ways-save-water-summer>

## RCRA Hazardous Waste and ICP Training Available in SATERN

The annual Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste (HW) Training, Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) Training, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention training is now live in SATERN. Everyone who has attended this previous instructor led class or has new responsibilities with hazardous materials or hazardous waste should visit SATERN (<https://satern.nasa.gov/>) and add the course id **WFF-SH-GSFC-RCRAICP** to their learning plan.

The regulations governing generation and disposal of HW require that personnel who handle HW as part of their job receive training that teaches the proper handling methods and update this training annually. The ICP requires that all personnel who generate, handle, or store hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or petroleum products, receive training annually that teaches the proper emergency response methods.

If there are any additional questions, please contact Marianne Simko at [marianne.f.simko@nasa.gov](mailto:marianne.f.simko@nasa.gov)