

## WATER CONSERVATION AT HOME

We wake up each morning and we all take care of necessary business – personal hygiene matters such as shaving, showering, brushing your teeth, and of course using the lavatory facilities. We then head to the kitchen and put on a pot of coffee and fix breakfast to eat and head out for the day. Some may prefer to pick up their favorite morning drink and some food at one of the well-known food establishments. All of these activities require the use of one of our precious natural resources: water.

For most of us, this daily routine has become so common place that we assume that the water will be there each time we turn on the tap. But let's keep it real – some days, the alarm does not go off and we oversleep. We then jump up and perform some of those morning business activities at “light speed.” Perhaps this day we will not have time to eat. We just head off to work and complete our morning ritual in the office.

At any rate, how can we conserve water as we start each day? Many of us, without even thinking, brush our teeth while leaving the faucet water running. How much water could have been saved by simply turning it on only as needed?

***A bathroom faucet generally runs 2 gallons of water per minute. By turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving, a person can save more than 200 gallons of water per month.***



That toilet in your bathroom has been there for years. Sometimes you have used it as a wastebasket. Sometimes too, since it's so old, it takes two or three flushes to get everything down. The water in the toilet tank may even run

intermittently after the tank is filled, thereby indicating a leak. Perhaps it is time for a new water saver toilet. How much water could be saved by replacing old fixtures?

***Older toilets use between 3.5 and 7 gallons of water per flush. However, WaterSense® labeled toilets use at least 60 percent less water. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day.***



Of course, no one wants to step into a cold shower, so while brushing our teeth, we turn the shower on and let it run until the water is nice and warm. We may be even distracted with checking our e-mail or some other venture before getting into the shower. How much water could have been saved?



Now we are dressed and we head down to the kitchen to make breakfast. Today you decide that we will take a nice homemade salad. We get our vegetables out of the fridge and begin to wash them while leaving the water running as each piece of vegetable is washed. How much water could have been saved if the vegetables were washed without allowing the water to run continuously?

*Clean vegetables over a pan to collect water run off to use for plants.*



## TRY THESE TIPS:



**Shorten your shower to save about 2.5 gallons of water per minute.**

**Turn off the tap while shaving, brushing teeth or any other time when you're not actually using water.**

**Fix leaks fast to save gallons.**

**We can all practice water conservation at home or we can watch our money go down the drain.**



Visit the websites below for more information on 'Water Conservation At Home'.

<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/waterconservation/Pages/index.aspx>

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/ws-ourwater-maryland-state-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-products>

Also, check out the some of our past environmental bulletins on this and similar topics:

<http://code250.gsfc.nasa.gov/environmental/outreach.cfm>.

