



Improving Home Improvement®

FREE

Water

SOLUTIONS GUIDE



**Efficient Ways
to Save Water
Inside and Outside
Your Home**



Improving Home Improvement®

OUR RESPECT FOR WATER RUNS DEEP.

Water covers over two-thirds of our planet. It's the basic fuel for all living things. (We can live without food for up to a month, but we can live without water for only five to seven days.) And yet, only about 1% of all the water on Earth is drinkable, fresh water – the other 99% is salt water in our oceans and fresh water locked in our polar caps. As the world's climate changes, and as human populations expand, fresh water will become even more precious. That's why it pays to be smart now about how we use our most valuable resource. Here at Lowe's, we're dedicated to providing you with the facts and solutions that can help you *maximize* your water savings and *minimize* your expense – without significantly altering your lifestyle. Saving water, just like saving energy, begins with each family and its commitment to creating a more efficient home. Ready to begin? Great. Let's get your feet wet!

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Kitch

First, let's check everything – including the kitchen sink.



Does your faucet leak? A dripping faucet can waste several gallons of water each day – about 140 gallons a month – and add substantially to your water bill. Repair or replace a leaky faucet as soon as possible.

Second, does your kitchen faucet have a water-saving aerator?



Studies have shown that if a family of four replaces its regular aerators with low-flow aerators throughout the house, more than 1,700 gallons of water can be saved per year!*

Third, how old is your dishwasher?



Replacing a 10-year-old dishwasher with an ENERGY STAR® qualified dishwasher can cut typical water usage by up to 50% (from 8-15 gallons per load down to 5-7 gallons) and uses about 25% less energy.

* Source: h2ouse.net

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WATER SOLUTIONS







Lowe's stocks a complete selection of ENERGY STAR® qualified dishwashers. Our sales associates can help you choose the brand, model and features that best fit your family's needs. And we can arrange installation in 72 hours or less and even haul away your old dishwasher for free.



WATER SAVING TIPS

Good habits can save water, too. Some simple actions you can take:

-  Operate your dishwasher with full loads only. (Also saves energy.)
-  Whenever possible, don't rinse your dishes before loading them.
-  Check your washer screen regularly and clean or replace as needed.
-  If you hand-wash dishes, turn off the water when you aren't rinsing.

DID YOU KNOW?

While an automatic dishwasher uses from 8 to 15 gallons of water per load (depending on the model's efficiency), washing your dishes by hand uses *up to 20 gallons!* Use even less water with an ENERGY STAR® dishwasher.

The average American household uses 350 gallons of water each day.

Learn more. Visit Lowe's water solutions web site at Lowe.com/h2o



Here's HOW

WEEKEND SOLUTIONS: Replacing a Leaky Faucet

It isn't as scary as it sounds. All you need are a few basic tools, some inexpensive supplies, your new faucet – and the easy-to-follow, printable instructions from Lowe's How-To Library at Lowe.com. Within about an hour, you'll be showing off your new faucet. And showing some real savings.



WATER SAVING TIPS

- Turn off the lavatory faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Don't use your toilet as a "flushable wastebasket."
- If you take baths, fill the tub no more than half way.

DID YOU KNOW?

The typical 5-minute shower uses between 15 and 25 gallons of water, depending on individual habits. The average bath uses even more water.



**Here's
HOW**

Bath

▶ WATER SOLUTIONS

Meet the #1 user of water inside your home.



It's no contest. Approximately 26%* of all your indoor water use is the result of toilet flushing – at a rate of 20-27 gallons per person, per day. That's around *32,000 gallons per year* for a family of four using the older 5- to 7-gallons-per-flush toilets (installed prior to 1994).

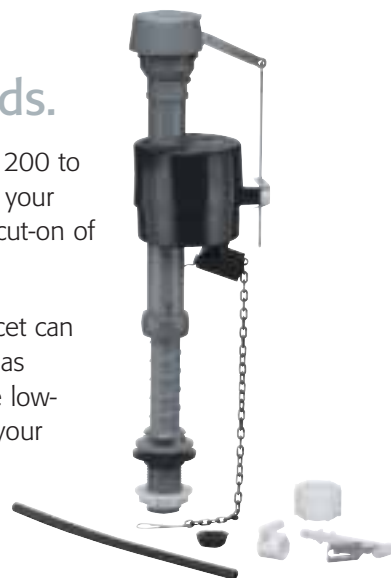
Laws now require that when a new home is built or an existing toilet is replaced, an "ultra low-flow toilet" (maximum 1.6 gallons per flush) must be installed – which can save from *8,000 to 21,000 gallons* of water per toilet, per year. Talk about keeping a lid on expenses!

At Lowe's, you can choose from an extensive selection of in-stock and special-order ultra low-flow toilets – from basic models to the latest designer looks – by the industry's leading bath-fixture manufacturers. We can also coordinate the installation by locally licensed and certified professionals.

Be sure to check for leaking toilets, faucets and showerheads.

It's estimated that *20% of all toilets leak*, which can waste 200 to 500 gallons of water per day. So it definitely pays to check your toilets frequently for any sign of leakage. (Periodic "ghost" cut-on of the tank refill valve is one sure sign.)

As we stated in Kitchen Solutions on page 3, a leaking faucet can also be costly and should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. And, just as in the kitchen, the use of inexpensive low-flow aerators on bathroom faucets can substantially lower your water usage and expense. Install low-flow showerheads for more water savings.



WEEKEND SOLUTIONS: Replacing a Leaky Toilet

Fixing a leaking toilet can be as simple as adjusting the float on your tank refill valve. The first step, of course, is to find the cause of the leak. Our comprehensive How-To Library at Lowe's.com can help you quickly identify and repair most common toilet leaks. And if you need any replacement parts, we've got them in stock – at our Everyday Low Prices.

* Source: Based on h2ouse.net and awwa.org averages.

Laundry

▶ WATER SOLUTIONS

Meet the #2 water-guzzler inside your home.

Looking to replace your old clothes washer? Consider selecting a new ENERGY STAR® qualified model. If your full-size clothes washer is 10 or more years old, it probably uses about *40 gallons of water* per load. Compare that to today's ENERGY STAR® qualified machines that use *18-25 gallons* per load and 50% less energy – which can save you up to \$120 per year on water and energy costs, without affecting performance.



Whirlpool Duet Super Capacity Washer and Electric Dryer

One of the best ways to reduce water consumption in your home is to replace your traditional washer with an ENERGY STAR® qualified model. Although a high-efficiency washer generally costs a little more to buy, you could ultimately *save up to \$1,000* in water and energy expense over the life of the machine.

Lowe's stocks an outstanding selection of ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers – including top-loading, front-loading and compact models – by America's leading brands. We can also arrange for installation by locally licensed and certified professionals. And we'll take away your old washer at no extra charge.

Again, be sure to check that faucet.

Repair or replace a leaky faucet, and install a low-flow aerator to save even more water. Also check the hoses and fittings of the hot and cold water-supply lines to the washer. Any source of leakage can add up to significant water loss and expense.

Learn more. Visit Lowe's water-solutions web site at Lowe.com/h2o



WATER SAVING TIPS

- ▶ Operate the washer with full loads if possible.
- ▶ Wash only with cold water whenever practical.
- ▶ Match the cycle length and water level to the load.
- ▶ Pretreat any stains to help prevent re-washing.

LAUNDRY LIST: What to Look For in a New Washer

Your Lowe's sales associate can help.

- ▶ Choose the capacity that matches your laundry needs.
- ▶ Select a model with a variety of wash/rinse options.
- ▶ A water-level selector is also desirable for those times when you can't wash a full load.
- ▶ Look for the ENERGY STAR® label to be sure you'll get maximum water and energy savings.

DID YOU KNOW?

ENERGY STAR® qualified washers extract more water during the spin cycle, which reduces drying time and wear and tear on your clothes. The reduction in drying time means lower energy bills.



Outdo

DID YOU KNOW?

Every day, on average, Americans use a total of 40 billion gallons of fresh water.

Up to 30% of water applied to turf, shrubs, etc. during the middle of the day can be lost due to evaporation.

Introducing the leading cause of water consumption – your yard.

Who would've thought? The average American household uses more than 130,000 gallons of water each year – and *close to 50%* of all that water is applied *outside* the home, to the landscaping. The #1 culprit? It's the *automatic irrigation system*. Here are some key tips on how to improve your system's efficiency:



Avoid over-watering by installing an automatic rain shutoff device.



Make sure your sprinkler heads and valves are working properly.



Check for leaks – and repair any you find as soon as possible.



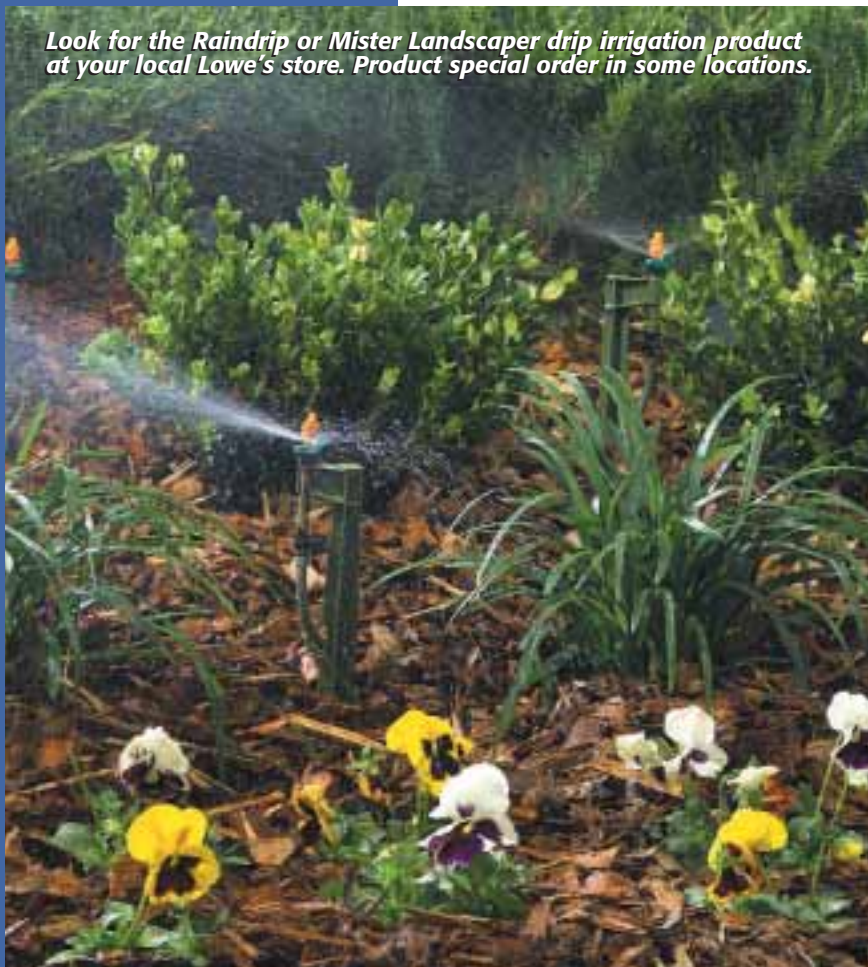
Adjust your timer promptly to match any changes in the weather.



Use drip irrigation – which uses tubing and/or micro-sprinklers – to water small areas such as flowers and shrubs.

In addition to refining *how much* you water your turf, flowers and other outdoor plants, there are also steps you can take to improve *the results* of the water you do use:

Look for the Raindrip or Mister Landscaper drip irrigation product at your local Lowe's store. Product special order in some locations.



Water early in the morning – before 9 a.m. It's the single best thing you can do to prevent evaporation.



Cover bare areas around trees and plants with organic mulch 2" deep to prevent water loss due to runoff and evaporation.



Avoid using sprinkler heads that create fine mists and sprays, since these can also result in evaporative water loss.



Consider using soaker (perforated) hoses instead of sprinklers in "thirstier" areas, to deliver water more directly and quickly.



Mister® Landscaper Drip Irrigation, 50' Starter Kit – low volume irrigation to water up to 250 sq. ft. of landscapes, gardens, shrubs, and trees

Or



If any plant you buy at Lowe's doesn't survive a year, bring in the plant along with your receipt, and we'll replace it at no charge.

WATER SOLUTIONS

XERISCAPE™

It's the ultimate "water efficient" landscape.

Xeriscaping is a trademarked term for a method of landscaping developed in Colorado in the early 1980s. The name is derived from the Greek word *xeric*, which means "requiring little water."

Although originally developed to meet the challenge of dwindling water supplies in specific regions, Xeriscaping has now become a fast-growing trend in every part of the country – from Florida to California. The reason: People are discovering that Xeriscaping *does not* mean the total absence of grass, flowers and other greenery.

Xeriscaping means less watering, less maintenance – and less expense. In fact, Xeriscaping lets homeowners create a beautiful exterior landscape *while reducing outside water usage dramatically*.

Here are the basic ingredients of a Xeriscape.

PLANNING & DESIGN

Your yard is composed of "micro-climates" – each area receiving its unique combination of sunlight, shade, wind and water. Taking each of these areas into account will ensure that your Xeriscape is designed and implemented for maximum beauty and water efficiency.

SOIL

Testing and improving the soil can create a better foundation for your plants by allowing water to penetrate more deeply, be retained longer and promote stronger roots.

PLANTS

Choosing plants that require less water – including "native" plants – automatically reduces water dependency, and grouping together plants with similar water, sun and nutrient requirements helps ensure their hardiness.

FERTILIZER

Tailoring the application of compost or manure around different types of plants is an effective and inexpensive method of delivering supplemental nutrients.



MULCH/STONES

Using organic mulch or natural stones improves moisture retention, maintains soil temperature and reduces competition for water by moisture-robbing weeds.

TURF

Replacing or re-seeding your lawn with a grass variety that requires less water can keep your lawn looking better even in drought conditions. Also, reducing the lawn area by substituting mulched beds and groundcover will sharply reduce maintenance.

WATER

Creating "watering zones" by grouping plants according to their water needs allows you to tailor your irrigation cycles for maximum efficiency.

The above is just a brief overview of the elements that make up a Xeriscape. For more information about this time- and money-saving concept, visit our comprehensive water-solutions web site at Lowe's.com/h2o, as well as the official Xeriscape web site at www.xeriscape.org.



Online

▶ WATER SOLUTIONS

Want to learn more about saving water?
Go deeper – at Lowe's.com/h2o.

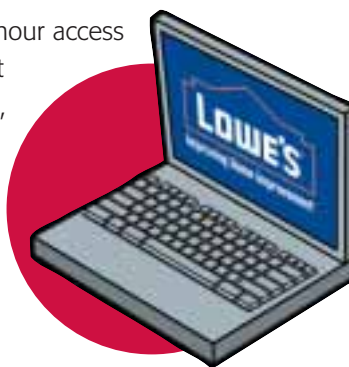
Our comprehensive water-solutions web site gives you 24-hour access to in-depth features, printable How-To Guides and the latest water-saving products. So you can reduce your water usage, lower your utility bill and increase the value of your home.

Some additional water-related resources:

www.xeriscape.org

www.h2ouse.net

www.epa.gov



**Here's
HOW**

WEEKEND SOLUTIONS: Detecting Outdoor Leaks

An unseen leak in your irrigation system – or even in the water supply line to your home – can send your water usage and expense sky high. To check for possible leaks:

Turn off the water to the inside of your home. (The valve is usually located just inside your home's foundation on a wall near the street.)

Once the water has been turned off, check your home's water-meter gauge. If the needle on the gauge is still moving, you very likely have a leak somewhere outside your home.

Contact your city's water/sewer department or a licensed plumber as soon as possible for help in isolating and repairing the leak.



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