

HOW TO RETRO-FIT YOUR HOUSE FOR CONSERVATION, & OTHER EASY, EVERYDAY WATERWISE PRACTICES

When appliance and/or fixture replacement is currently not a feasible option, there are still small, inexpensive steps you can take to retrofit appliances and adopt WaterWise habits around your house that can save you a lot of water *and* money. Here are some tips and suggestions.



IN THE KITCHEN:

- Retrofit your kitchen faucet with a flow restrictor or aerator if it doesn't already have one.
- Place a container under the faucet to catch water used while waiting for water to warm or cool. Use this later for watering, cooking, or other uses.
- Place a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running water until it cools.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan instead of rinsing them under the faucet.
- Fill sinks with only the minimum amount of water necessary for washing and rinsing dishes.
- Do only full loads in your dishwasher.
- Do not rinse or wash dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Most new models do not require pre-rinsing.
- Avoid using your garbage disposal whenever possible. Compost fruit, vegetables, and other compostable items instead.
- Thaw food in the refrigerator instead of in water. This is also a food-safety rule.



**MONTHLY
DRAWING**
August Prize:
Low Flow Showerhead
Drawing on August 16

IRRIGATION USERS:

Adjust your system to run **80%** of your full cycle time.

Click [HERE](#) for a sample irrigation schedule

IN THE BATHROOM:



5 minute water timer

- Put a timer near the shower. Try to keep showers to five minutes or less.
- Try to take a 'Navy' shower, by turning off the water while soaping up or shaving, then turning the shower back on only to rinse.
- Retrofit faucets and showerheads with flow restrictors or aerators.
- Shut off water while brushing teeth, hand washing, shaving, and similar activities.
- When filling the tub for bathing, plug the tub first, and then adjust the temperature as the water warms.
- Place a water-replacement device in your toilet tank. A plastic bottle (1/2 gallon milk jug) filled with water and sealed works well.
- Do not use your toilet as a garbage can.
- Only flush when necessary.

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM:

- Do only full loads, and adjust the water level on your washing machine according to the load size.
- Re-use towels and clothes when possible instead of washing after each use.
- Wash dark clothes in cold water to save both on water and energy, as well as to keep your clothes from fading in color.

Source: <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>



WATER SOFTENERS:



- Most water softeners are set to cycle too often. Set your water softener for a minimum number of refills. This saves water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- Retrofit your water softener with a *Demand Initiated Regeneration* Controller that allows easy conversion of time clock controlled models. This allows your water softener to only operate when water is in use.

Source: http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Water/Water_Conservation/WCResidentialChecklist.htm