

27 If you use evaporative air conditioning in the summer, direct the water drain to a flower bed, tree base or lawn.

28 Wash your car in a location where the rinse water can help water the grass.

29 Wash your car using a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end instead of letting the hose run continuously. (Saves 150 gal. each time)

30 Sweep driveways, patios and sidewalks instead of using the hose to clean them. (Saves 150 gal. or more each time)

31 Encourage your children not to play with the hose. (Saves 600 gal./hour)

32 If you let your children play in the sprinklers, make sure it's only when you're watering the yard.

33 When taking your car to a car wash, look for one that recycles its wash water.

34 If you're a backyard mechanic, clean up with waterless hand cleaner instead of washing under a steady stream of water. (Saves 7-10 gal. each time)

35 Turn the empty water glass upside down in a restaurant if you don't want water. Not only will you save the water you don't drink, you'll also save the water used to wash the glass. (Collectively, saves millions of gal./year)

Savings are based on a family of two adults and one child. This brochure is based on information from Resources Conservation, Inc. and other sources, as adapted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

There's more than one way to save water.



Besides Saving Water Quantity, You Can Also Help Maintain the Quality of Illinois' Groundwater. Establish Wellhead Setbacks, Seal Abandoned Wells, and Maintain Septic Systems.



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You'd probably like to save water any way you can, but it's hard to think of everything. So we've done most of the work for you, with a whole list of tips that can help you save water, usually with just a few minor adjustments.

1 Shorten your shower. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gal./mo.

2 Use low-flow shower heads or flow restrictors in regular shower heads. (Saves 500-800 gal./mo.)

3 When you can, take a shallow bath instead of a shower. (Saves 15-20 gal. each time)

4 Put bathroom trash in the wastebasket and cigarettes in the ashtray instead of flushing them down the toilet. (Saves 400-600 gal./mo.)

5 Displace water in the toilet tank so you use less with each flush. You can do this with a plastic bottle of water weighted with pebbles. (Saves 5 gal./day)

6 Check toilet for leaks by dropping dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. (Saves 200 gal./mo.)

7 Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. (Saves 3 gal./day)

8 Rinse your razor with short blasts of water or by swishing it in a partially-filled sink instead of running the water while you shave. (Saves 3 gal./day)

9 While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or garden. (Saves 100-300 gal./mo.)

10 Fix leaking faucets and plumbing joints. (Saves 20 gal./day per leak)

11 Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. (Saves 75-200 gal./week)

12 Keep a bottle in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the tap for cold water. (Saves 200-300 gal./mo.)

13 Defrost food without running water over the packages. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. (Saves 50-150 gal./mo)

14 Rinse vegetables in a filled sink or pan instead of under running water. (Saves 150-250 gal./mo.)

15 Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage can more. (Saves 50-150 gal./mo.)

16 When washing dishes by hand, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run for rinsing. (Saves 200-500 gal./mo.)

17 When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible to minimize rinse water needed. (Saves 50-150 gal./mo.)

18 Instead of running the sprinklers every day, water the lawn only when it needs it or just give it a good soak once a week. If the grass springs back when you step on it, there's no need to water. (Saves 750-1500 gal./mo.)

19 Use "mulch" (chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel) to cover bare ground in gardens and around trees to slow evaporation. (Saves 750-1500 gal./mo.)

20 If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals. (Saves 1300 gal./mo.)

21 Water the lawn in the early morning or evening when there's less evaporation. (Saves 300 gal./mo.)

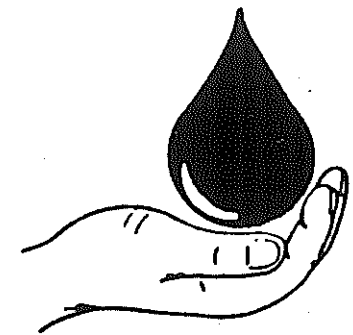
22 Plant drought-resistant native trees and plants. (Saves 750-1500 gal./mo.)

23 Adjust your sprinklers so they don't water the sidewalk, driveway or street. (Saves 500 gal./mo.)

24 Skip watering the lawn on a windy day when there's too much evaporation. (Saves 200-300 each time)

25 Cut down watering on cool, overcast or rainy days. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers. (Saves 200-300 gal. each time)

26 Set lawn mower blades one notch higher because longer grass means less evaporation. (Saves 500-1500 gal./mo.)



"You Never Miss Your Water 'Till the Well Runs Dry"