

IQAP INSIGHTS

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Currently, the average residential customer in Fort Collins uses 73 gallons of water per day, and efficient households use 41 gallons per person per day. Small changes can make a big difference in how much water you use. By making efficient choices, we all win – the City of Fort Collins moves closer to its conservation goals and your home or business will feel more comfortable, perform better, use less energy and water, and save you money. This month, we are focusing on how to conserve water in the bathroom.

LEARN

There are three main areas of the bathroom where water can be conserved: the toilet, shower and faucet.

Toilet

Every day, the typical toilet will use about 33 gallons of water, making toilet flushing the highest indoor water use in a home. Toilets are also the most common source of leaks. Because this type of leak can be silent, it may go unnoticed.

Shower

In an average home, showers are typically the third largest water user, after toilets and clothes washers. On average, Americans shower for about 8 minutes, using 17 gallons of water with a typical showerhead.

Faucet

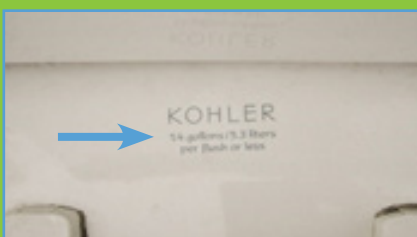
An average American household uses 18-27 gallons of water per day from all faucets (bathroom, kitchen and utility sink). This adds up to 9,750 gallons per household per year, or 117 bathtubs full of water!

ACT

Detect Leaks: Toilets

How much water is used?

The gallons per flush (gpf) is usually found on the toilet bowl right behind the lid. You can also estimate gpf based on the year the toilet was made, which can be found imprinted inside the tank. Generally, toilets with a date of 2005 or later are considered high efficiency, using 1.28 gpf or less.



Check for leaks.

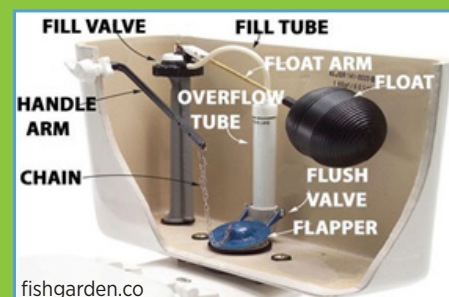
Perform a toilet dye test:

- Lift the tank cover.
- Place a few drops of food coloring (or a dye tablet) into the tank.
- Wait 15 minutes without flushing.
- If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

If you have a leak:

Check for the following:

- Overflow tube: water should be a half-inch below the top of the tube.
- Lift chain: it should not catch on anything.
- Flapper: ensure it is sealing properly.
- Flush handle: make sure it functions correctly.



ACT

Detect Leaks: Faucets and Showerheads

How much water is used?

The gallons per minute (gpm) can be found on the faucet aerator. Typically, aerators use 0.5 to 1.5 gpm.



On a showerhead, the gpm is usually found on the “face” or rim. Efficient showerheads use less than 2 gpm.



Check for leaks.

- Check every faucet and showerhead in your home to see if there is a slow drip.
- Check under and around sinks for wet spots, a musty smell or bowed cabinetry.

If you have a leak:

A dripping faucet often can be fixed by replacing the aerator.

Tip: Get a free aerator when you pick up your free Fix a Leak kit from Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave.

Free Fix a Leak Kits are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Wednesday, at 222 Laporte Ave. Kits include a drip calculator, leak ruler, faucet washers, pipe tape and toilet dye tablets to help you identify leaks, learn how much water is being wasted and get started on repairs.

Monitor your water use (fcgov.com/mmu-iqap) during colder months, like January. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are likely leaks.

Upgrade, If You Can

There are two ways to get new, water efficient aerators, a toilet and/or a showerhead:

- Sign up for to receive **free home efficiency products and an assessment** through Larimer County Conservation Corps’ Water and Energy Program. The program is open to both renters and homeowners. Schedule an appointment online at larimer.org/ewd/energy or call 970-498-6660. While participants often receive a new, efficient toilet, not every household will qualify for a toilet replacement.
- Purchase a new toilet or showerhead and receive a rebate in the form of a utility bill credit. Visit fcgov.com/water-rebate or call 970-212-2900 for specific criteria and rules.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Stop by our Fix a Leak Open House, Wednesday, March 27, 5-7 p.m. at the Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St. This free event includes live demonstrations on fixing leaking toilets, showerheads and faucets. Utilities will provide leak check and repair demonstrations, rebate information, dye tabs, activities for kids and an interactive meter reading display.
- The EPA’s Fix a Leak Week website (fcgov.com/epa-leak) has great leak detection and repair resources.
- Alliance for Water Efficiency has a great video about the service behind a typical water bill at fcgov.com/AFWE.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Email utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com or call 970-416-2032.

Esta información sobre el programa “Income-Qualified Assistance Program”, que ofrece una tarifa de luz y agua a descuento, puede ser traducida, sin costo para usted, 970-212-2900.