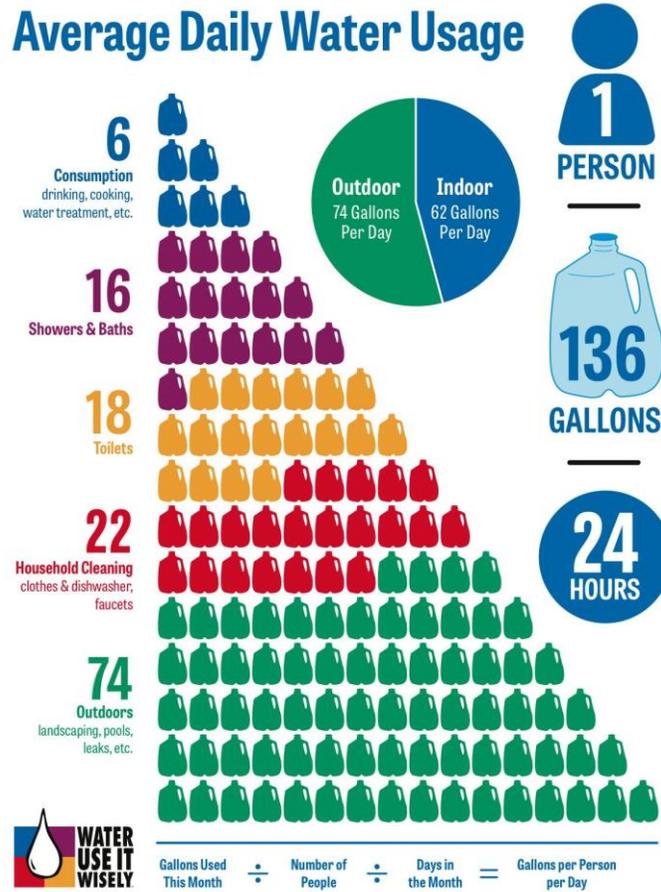


Water Usage and Conservation Tips

The average person will use approximately 62 gallons of water per day inside. This does not include outdoor watering. So an average household of 4 will consume over 7,400 gallons a month from inside water use. This includes water drinking and cooking, showers and baths, toilets, and dish and clothes washing.



Conserve Water

There are several ways you can reduce the amount of water you consume. Some steps include only running the washing machine and dish washer when you have a full load. This can save you between 5 and 45 gallons of water per load. Reduce the length of time you use the shower to save approximately 12-13 gallons of water. See the below chart for other steps you can take to reduce your water usage at home.



Replace Faucets, Toilets, and Appliances

Another way you can greatly reduce your water consumption is to replace older toilets and appliances with newer, more efficient ones. This can make a big difference in daily water usage. An older toilet will use between 3 and 6 gallons of water per flush. Replacing a toilet with a new more efficient one can reduce that to 1 to 2 gallons of water per flush, and can save you between 15% and 18% on your water bill. See the below chart on potential water savings from upgrading your faucets, appliances, and toilets.



Self-Audit your Irrigation Systems

Irrigation systems and water sprinklers can use a lot of water, even when used minimally. It is important to monitor your outside watering to avoid costly bills from overuse or leaks.

Proper seasonal scheduling of your irrigation system is just as important as the condition of your system. Perform system evaluations on a regular basis looking for proper coverage. Install a rain sensor if you don't have one. Follow these simple steps to apply just the right amount of water your landscape needs:

Get to know your controller. Most controllers have multiple start times, multiple programs and seasonal adjustment capabilities. These can be used to your advantage, but watch out for accidental excessive scheduling. Controllers often run at night when you can't see if a sprinkler head is missing, or cycle times are excessive.

Start low and, if needed, increase incrementally.

Infrequent, deep watering helps increase root health. Base your station times on plant material, sun exposure, and what type of emitter is watering that area.

Hand water stressed areas and high water need plants. Even the best irrigation systems apply more water in some areas than they do in others. Use a hose to put water where you need it.

Match your watering to the season. Plants will need less watering in the spring and fall, and almost no additional watering in the winter when most plants go dormant. In fact, it's a good idea to turn your irrigation system off in the winter months.

[*Click here for information on the amount of water your irrigation system will use.*](#)