

Indoor Water Audit

Guideline 4

Did you know: Every time you flush the toilet unnecessarily or leave the sink running, you are wasting water. Find out how many gallons of water your house uses, then save water and money by following these simple steps.

1. Read your water meter before using any water. (See Guideline 5 - Meter Reading & Leak Repair.)
2. Keep track of all indoor water using activities for one day (24 hours). See example on back.
3. Determine the number of gallons each water using activity typically needs from the chart below.
4. Read your water meter after one day (24 hours) and verify your calculations. (For water meters measuring in cubic feet - 1 cubic foot of water = 7.5 gallons.)
5. Calculate the per-person consumption rate. (Total gallons of water used divided by total people living in home.)
6. Use DOH Water Saving Guidelines 1 through 8 to reduce your water use by 10% (or more) and save money at the same time.

Water Use Activity Chart (gallons per use)

Toilet		Washing Machine	
Conventional	5.0	Conventional	37.0
Low-Flow	3.5	Wash Recycle	26.0
Ultra Low-Flow	1.6	Front Load	21.0
		X-Axis	17.5
Faucets		Showerheads	
Conventional	3.0	Conventional	5.0
Low-Flow	2.5	Low-Flow	2.5

Example

Beginning Meter Reading 1000

Bathroom:

Toilet	18 flushes	X	5 gal/flush	=	90 gal
Sink	6 minutes	X	3 gal/min	=	18 gal
Shower	25 minutes	X	5 gal/min	=	125 gal

Kitchen:

Sink	6 minutes	X	3 gal/min	=	18 gal
Dishwasher	1 cycle	X	15 gal/use	=	15 gal

Other:

Laundry	1 cycle	X	37 gal/use	=	37 gal
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Total Use 303 gal

Per-person Rate 303 gal / 3 people =
101 gallons per person

Final Meter Reading* 1303

*If the beginning meter reading plus total use does not equal the final meter reading, you either used water outdoors and/or you may have a leak.

Worksheet

Beginning Meter Reading _____

Bathroom:

Toilet	___ flushes	X	___ gal/flush	=	___ gal
Sink	___ minutes	X	___ gal/min	=	___ gal
Shower	___ minutes	X	___ gal/min	=	___ gal

Kitchen:

Sink	___ minutes	X	___ gal/min	=	___ gal
Dishwasher	___ cycle	X	___ gal/use	=	___ gal

Other:

Laundry	___ cycle	X	___ gal/use	=	___ gal
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Total Use _____ gal

Per-person Rate _____ gal / _____ people =
_____ gallons per person

Final Meter Reading* _____

More Information

(360) 236-3100 • 1-800-521-0323

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>