

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 our Water Saving Guidelines 1 through 8 to reduce your water use by 10 percent (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

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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

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.

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Worksheet

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Bathroom:
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More Information
 360-236-3100 • 1-800-521-0323
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>

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