



You might often assume that the heat of summer will lead to more water consumption.

That's because lawns, gardens, and even swimming pools demand a lot of it. But the truth is during summer even indoor water costs are still 50 to 70 percent of your monthly water bill.

[Take Care of Texas](#) suggests the following tips for reducing your indoor water use this summer:

Replace your toilet. If you have an old water hog of a toilet, it uses a lot more water than it needs to. A newer, more efficient toilet you can save

13,000 gallons of water a year. That's about \$110 in savings for the average household.

Use the dishwasher wisely. Washing dishes by hand consumes nearly 5,000 more gallons of water a year. Operating automatic dishwashers with a full load can help you save water. Instead of rinsing dirty dishes, try scraping food waste from them. Using a "light wash" feature also conserves water. An ENERGY STAR dishwasher is, on average, 30 percent more water efficient than standard models and will save about 3,870 gallons of water over its lifetime.

Fix leaks. Check your faucets, and fix any leaks you find. A faucet leaking at a rate of one drop per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers!

Trade up to an ENERGY STAR clothes washer. A full-sized ENERGY STAR clothes washer uses 13 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. That saves 3,000 gallons of water per year. They also use about 25 percent less energy which could save you \$45 per year on your utility bill.

Install water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators. Standard showerheads use 2.5 gallons per minute, but a showerhead that earned the WaterSense label uses no more two gpm. This adds up to a savings of about 2,900 gallons of water per year. And replacing old, inefficient faucets and aerators can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year. Using less hot water also means your water heater uses less energy.



For your convenience, we've created an infographic with the tips listed above. [Download the infographic](#) to share by email or on social media. Ask your friends and followers to do their part this summer to [Take Care of Texas!](#)

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