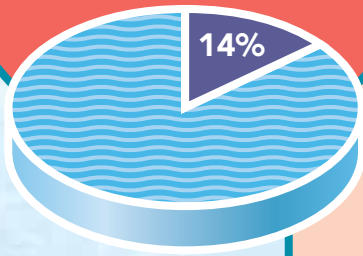
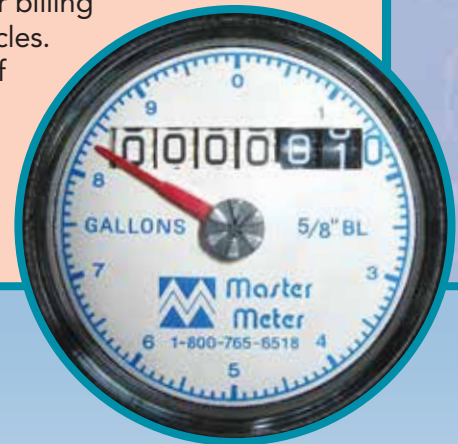


# WATER CONSERVATION AT HOME

Domestic water use consumes an estimated 14% of all freshwater used in the U.S. ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org))

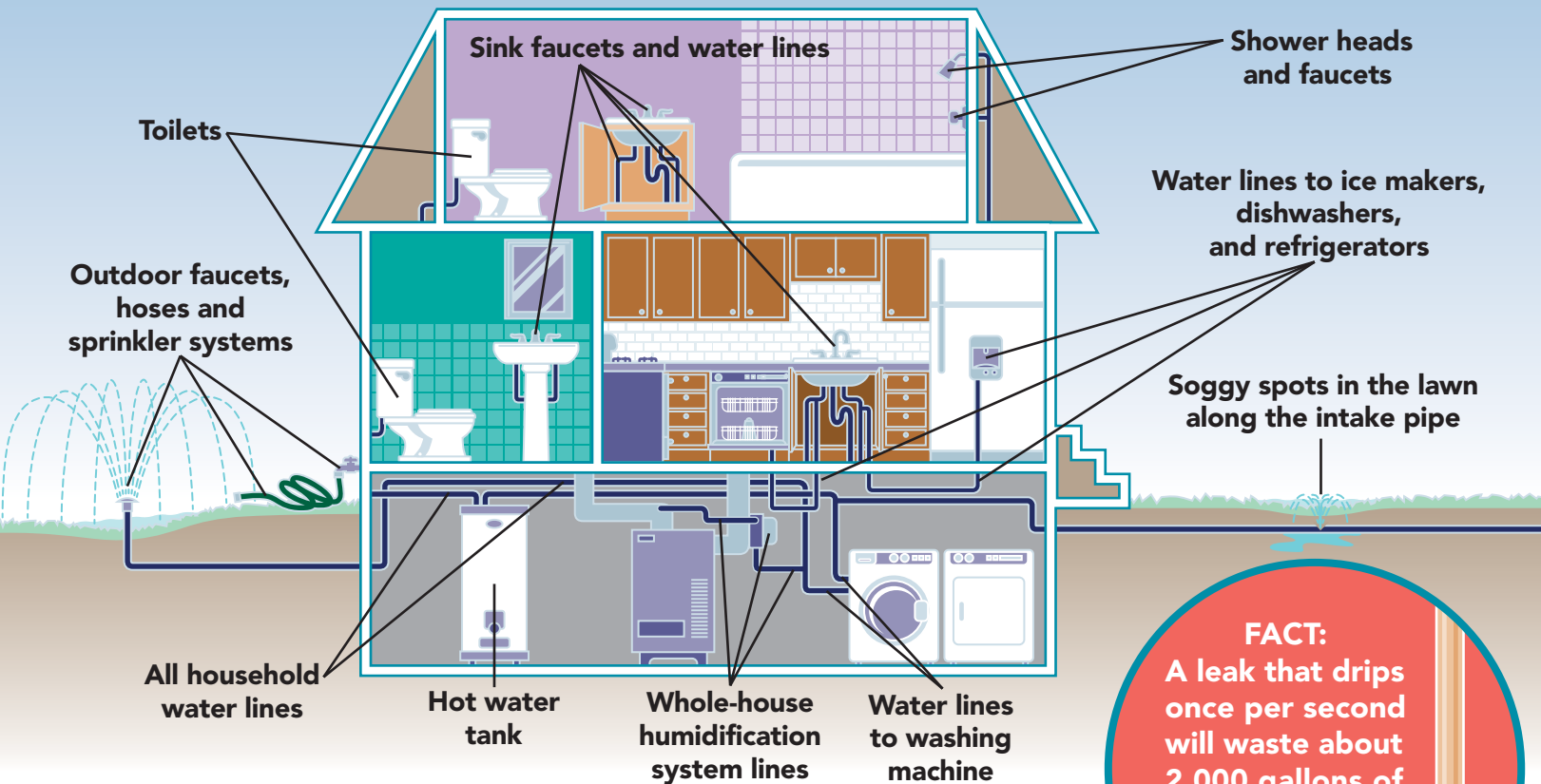


How much water are you really using? The average family of four uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day. The best way to start saving water is to understand how much you are using. If you are on a public water supply, many water providers conduct free home water audits or can provide you with kits to conduct your own. Your water bill will tell you how many gallons of water you use per billing cycle, and show comparisons to previous bill cycles. An increase can mean you have leaks in need of repair. Do you have your own well? Consider installing a flow meter to fully understand how much water you are using. **Now you are ready to start saving water!**



Look for those leaks and schedule needed repairs.

## COMMON PROBLEM AREAS INSIDE AND OUT:



**FACT:**  
A leak that drips once per second will waste about 2,000 gallons of water per year.

# 1

## Inside the Home – Bathroom

- Use water-wise, low flow fixtures and showerheads and save approximately 7,600 (or more) gallons per year in an average household!
- Reduce shower time to 5 minutes and save 12,000 gallons of water per year !
- Consider a toilet upgrade – those installed prior to 1992 can use 3.5 or more gallons of water per flush. A **WaterSense** labeled toilet uses a maximum of only 1.3 gallons and saves nearly 11,000 gallons of water per year.
- Turn water off as you brush your teeth or shave, and your family will save over 11,000 gallons of water each year.



# 2

## Inside the Home – Kitchen & Laundry


- Consider upgrading appliances that use water. **Energy Star** labeled dishwashers and washing machines can save a combined 30,000 gallons of water per year (as well as energy). Always run these appliances with full loads or at an appropriate load size setting.
- Don't let water run as you hand wash your dishes. Updated or aerated faucets can save over 15,000 gallons of water per year!
- Reuse water when you can. For example, you can use a tub of rinse water to water plants. Same goes for collected dehumidifier or air conditioning system condensation.
- Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge so you won't waste all those gallons at the faucet to get one cold glass of water.
- Compost vegetable waste instead of running the disposal in your sink.





### 3 Outside the Home

■ Avoid using sprinklers on windy days and during the hottest time of the day when evaporation will occur. NEVER allow sprinklers to run in the rain! A rain sensor will help to avoid this on automated sprinkler systems.




■ Only water as needed — lawns only need about 1 inch of water per week, and a heavy rainfall can sustain your yard up to 2 weeks. If you see puddles when the sprinkler is on, you are over-watering!

■ Raise your mower blade to at least 3 inches. Slightly longer grass creates shade for healthier root systems that soak up and retain more water.

■ Use drought and heat tolerant grass for your lawn, and convert some mown areas to more natural spaces with trees, tall grasses and native plants that will absorb more water and create less runoff.

■ Select native, drought tolerant plants for your landscaping and use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Plants that are native to your climate require less water when established and are generally more tolerant of local pests and soil conditions.

■ Try soaker hoses and other drip methods instead of sprinklers to save 30-50% of landscape irrigation water use.



■ Retain the Rain — Using rain barrels or cisterns can provide you with free, fresh water to use on your lawn, in the garden, and even to wash your car and other outdoor items.

■ Speaking of car washing, commercial car washes recycle water. At home, use only a hose with a nozzle that shuts off while you scrub. Wash cars on the grass so some water can be absorbed back into the ground.

■ Use a floating pool cover and keep your pool and hot tub covered to reduce evaporation.

■ Use a broom to clean up walkways, steps and driveways instead of the hose.

■ Shovel snow and ice as a first response to slippery conditions and consider using only salt-free de-icing alternatives when necessary.

