

Handy-dandy tips:

How to save water in your home! (Conserve: It's good for everyone!)

Saving one drop at a time or one gallon at a time really pays off! It can save money on your water bill (remember, water isn't free – if you're not paying for it, someone else is.) It makes sense for environmental purposes and helps ensure there will be water for our children and grandchildren.

A few things to consider:

- Many water providers, such as Denver Water, offer rebates for new toilets.
- When replacing a water device, only use one that carries the Water Sense seal of approval. It certifies that the new toilet or other water device won't be a water-waster.
- Most consumers not only pay for water, they pay for sewage, too. If you can trim your water bill, you also are likely to reduce your sewer bill!

Easy things to do to save water:

- * Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints (saves up to 20 gallons a day or 600 gallons a month).
 - * Run only full loads of laundry (saves 300 to 700 gallons a month).
 - * Take shorter showers, only one to two minutes a day (saves 700 gallons a month).
 - * Flush only when necessary (saves 400 to 600 gallons per month). A toilet isn't an ash tray.
 - * Check old toilets for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. In 15 minutes, if the water in the bowl is colored, you probably have a leak that could be wasting 400 to several thousand extra gallons a month. (The new, high-efficiency toilets work great and save lots of water, too!)
 - * If you do dishes by hand, don't leave the rinse water constantly running (saves 200 to 500 gallons a month).
 - * Keep bottles of water in the refrigerator rather than running the sink faucet until the water becomes cold (saves 200-300 gallons a month).
 - * Don't run the faucet when cleaning vegetables. Rinse them in a pan or water-filled sink (save 150 to 200 gallons a month).
 - * If you are thinking about replacing your washer, consider buying a front-loading model.
- A cute (or maybe, controversial) ad about saving water in San Francisco can be found at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3o4GdsSX870&list=UUPzLXCg4Ebt3WICF9h2mc_g

Here's the poop about your sewer line...

Most people have a 4" sewer line that exits their home and flows into a bigger, main line in their community. In general, you are responsible for your private line. That means if the line clogs or becomes blocked, it is your responsibility – not someone else's – to get it unclogged. There are some things people should do to help prevent sewer back-ups. Have a company clean your line every 2-3 years. Many companies offer the service for \$99 or less.

That's far cheaper than the cost of cleaning up smelly sewage on your basement floors, carpets or walls.

Handy tip: Have your sewer line checked/maintained every couple of years to help prevent those unwanted (and expensive) sewer back-ups. While on the subject, does your homeowner's insurance pay for damages caused by sewer or water back-ups?

Things you should never put down your sink (to prevent sewer clogs): Grease, fibrous **fruits** and vegetables (example: celery), potato peels, rice or pasta, coffee grounds and egg shells.

Things you should never flush in a toilet: feminine products of any kind, paper towels, wet wipes or diapers.

Never flush any product that claims to be biodegradable, "flushable" or eco-friendly. They can cause a sewer clog.