

Use what you need!  
stop the leaks!  
slow the flow!  
use water wisely!



We need to save water every way we can. If we don't conserve, we're pouring water - and money - down the drain. You can reduce your water consumption by taking just a few simple steps. So use water wisely, stop the leaks and slow the flow!

### Check for Leaks

Leaks are the biggest water waster. A leak of one drop per second wastes 2,400 gallons of water per year! Take a few minutes to find out if you have a leak in your home.

### Use Your Water Meter to Check for Leaks

✎ Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period.

✎ Go to your water meter and record the current reading.

✎ Wait 30 minutes.

(Remember: no water should be used during this period.)

✎ Read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

✎ If you cannot find the leak using the tips in this flyer, you should consult a plumber.



### Where to check for leaks?

**TOILETS:** Leaks inside your toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day. Some leaks are silent, some produce a running water sound and others may be visible as a small trickle running from the rim to the water in the bowl. To detect silent leaks, remove toilet tank lid and any colored cleaning agents. Flush to clear water in the bowl. Add dye tablets or a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 to 30 minutes. Flush as soon as the test is complete.



**Faucets:** The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. Water losses caused by dripping faucets can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons of water per day. Check faucets regularly for leaks at the faucet head and seepage at the base and its connections.

**SHOWERS:** Dripping shower heads can waste 75 to several hundred gallons of water a week, depending on the size of the drip. If the shower head is leaking, make sure it is screwed tightly. Also, remember to check the washer for wear. If you need a new washer, you can get one at your local hardware store.



### Additional tips

Here are more tips for conserving water inside your home:



#### In the bathroom:

- ✎ Flush less
- ✎ While brushing teeth, shaving, etc., turn off the water
- ✎ Take shorter showers
- ✎ In the shower, wet yourself down, turn the water off, lather up, then turn the water on to rinse off soap
- ✎ Use less water for bathing - close the drain first and fill tub only one-third full

#### In the kitchen:

- ✎ Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run while you wait for cool water to flow
- ✎ When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the rinsing sink to one-third or one-half full - avoid letting the water run continuously in the rinsing sink

#### In the laundry:

- ✎ For washers with variable settings for water volume, select the minimum amount per load.
- ✎ If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads only.
- ✎ Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads; normal and permanent press wash cycles use more water.
- ✎ Check hoses regularly for leaks.
- ✎ Pretreat stains to avoid rewashing.

## Additional Tips

### Other areas:

- ✍ Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.
- ✍ Replace leaky drain plugs in sinks and bathtubs.
- ✍ When washing your vehicle fill a bucket with water instead of using a water hose.
- ✍ Sweep the walkway and concrete areas to remove debris before using the water hose to clean.

## Use Low-Flow Fixtures

### Toilets

Use water-saving models that use about 1.6 gallons of water per flush.

### Faucets

Install low-flow faucets or install faucet aerators and flow restrictors on all faucets. Faucet aerators are circular screened disks, usually made of metal, that are screwed onto the head of the faucet to reduce flow. Faucet aerators require periodic cleaning of grit and scale buildup that may inhibit flow.

For a bathroom faucet, a 1.5-gallons-per-minute flow will provide enough water for personal hygiene needs.

For a kitchen faucet, you will want 1.5- to 2.5-gallons-per-minute flow to make sure the flow of water is enough to wash and rinse dishes.

## Fix Leaks

Leaking toilet? Try the following procedures:

- ✍ Water level in the tank should be about one-half inch below the top of the overflow tube in the middle of the tank. To adjust the water level, use a screwdriver to adjust the screw on the end of the ballcock float arm or bend the float arm up or down (very gently) until the correct water level is achieved.
- ✍ To stop the water running after a flush, oil, tighten or replace the flush handle. Use an adjustable wrench to tighten the nut attached to the handle on the inside of the tank.
- ✍ Check for holes and cracks in the float ball. If the ball is filled with water or no longer appears to float replace by unscrewing it from its tubing and screwing another one in its place.
- ✍ Adjust lift chain so it hangs straight from handle lever with about one-half inch slack.
- ✍ Check the rubber flapper or flush valve at the bottom of the tank. If it is worn or corroded, clean or replace.
- ✍ If the water won't shut off at all, replace both the flapper and the ballcock.
- ✍ If these simple procedures don't stop the leak, you should call your plumber.

For two-handled or single-handled model faucets, repair leaks by replacing washers and by tightening or re-packing the faucet stem. If preferred, a plumber can make repairs.

To fix a leaky shower head follow these steps:

- ✍ Turn off the water supply.
- ✍ Use an adjustable wrench to remove the old shower head. (Use a cloth between the shower head and the jaws of the wrench to avoid scratching the fixture.)
- ✍ Clean the threads to remove old joint sealer.
- ✍ Apply joint sealer or tape. (use package instructions)
- ✍ Use the adjustable wrench to install the shower head.
- ✍ Turn the water supply on and test the shower head.



Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited

## Water Management Tips



Providing water and sewerage services  
for modern, healthy and comfortable  
lifestyles

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