

Conservation Tips for the Kitchen

Savings in the Kitchen

Spend a lot of time in the kitchen? Here are a few tips to help save water:

- Plug the drain or use a pan of water when washing vegetables or washing dishes by hand.
- Instead of using running water to thaw foods, defrost them overnight in the refrigerator or before preparation in the microwave.
- When cooking on the stove, use less water and put a lid on the pot.
- Soak dirty pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape and clean them.

A little effort goes a long way, and these simple tasks can add up to a large savings over time.

Let Your Dishwasher Do Its Job

A dishwasher uses only half the energy and one-sixth of the water that hand washing does, and it uses less soap. Run your dishwasher only when it's full, and don't rinse dishes off before putting them in the dishwasher. Pre-rinsing dishes can waste up to 25 gallons of water per meal! Scrape the big chunks into the trash (disposals require a lot of water), and let your dishwasher do the rest.

Retrofit Old Faucets

Retrofit all wasteful household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors. Screw-on aerators for bathroom and kitchen faucets are generally available in hardware stores for under \$2, and can be installed with minimum effort. Aerators can save from half a gallon to over 4.5 gallons per faucet per day, which can really add up over time.

Where's Your Shut-Off Valve?

Know where your master water shut-off valve is located! Shut-off valves can generally be found where the water pipe enters the structure. Family members and coworkers should learn where they are located and how to turn them off in the event of an emergency, such as when a faucet becomes a fountain or a pipe inside a wall bursts. It could save hundreds of gallons of water and prevent thousands of dollars' worth of damage to your home or business