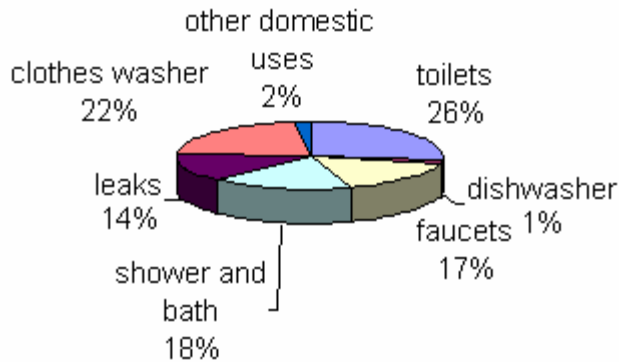


DID YOU KNOW

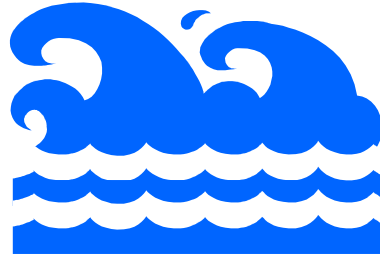
Massachusetts households use between 50 and 100 gallons per person per day, depending on whether the household is in an apartment or a home with a yard.



The average household in Massachusetts uses roughly 65 gallons of water per person per day? There are times when this causes stress on our clean water supplies



Research has shown that an average of 8% or more of all home water use is wasted through leaks



For more information regarding water facts and conservation, check with the following

Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Water Department

To pick up a free water conservation devise, visit the Board of Health office located in Town Hall at 142 South Street, Plainville.

Using Water More Efficiently



The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the Town of Plainville a grant to provide free water conservation devises to Plainville residents.

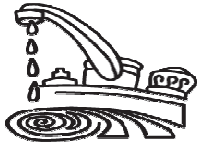
These devices include

- Water saving shower-heads
- Kitchen swivel faucet aerators
- Leak detecting dye tablets
- Rain gauges
- Automatic shut-off garden hose nozzles.

Using Water More Efficiently—Tips for Reducing Water Use

In the Home

- Determine whether your water system is leaking. Turn off all water and keep an eye on your water meter. Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank, put a few drops of food coloring or a **leak dye tablet** into the tank. Wait a few minutes, then look in the bowl. If the coloring has made its way there, you have a leak



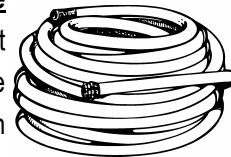
- Replace your old high volume toilet, the largest water user in your home, with a low flow toilet that needs only 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Replace your washing machine, the second largest water user in your home. Energy Star TM rated washers with Water Factors of 9.5 or below use 35 to 50 percent less water and 50 percent less energy per load. Several utility companies offer rebates to consumers who purchase these washers. For additional information, visit www.energystar.gov, click on appliances, then special offers.
- Take a shower instead of a bath and save 30 gallons. Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water. Cut back on your shower time by one minute and you will save in water and energy.

- Hold a bucket underneath your showerhead for 20 seconds. If more than one gallon accumulates, you need a water efficient showerhead.
- Install **low-flow showerheads** on all shower and **low-flow aerators** on all faucets.
- Avoid using your garbage disposal. Compost left-over fruits and vegetables.

Using Water Wisely Outdoors

Vast quantities of water are used for watering lawns and gardens during the warm weather months, and that puts stress on Massachusetts water supplies. Summer is the most important time for us to be conscious of how we use water in our day-to-day activities.

- Use rain barrels to collect water when it is plentiful and use them to water plants when needed. Your town or city might offer a discount on rain barrels or sponsor a rain barrel sale
- Use **automatic shut-off hose nozzles** so water is not left running unintentionally. Use timers when watering for an extended period.
- Water your lawn early in the morning, if possible,



and only when necessary. Lawns only require one inch of water per week. Use a **rain gauge** to determine if your lawn is getting enough. Frequent watering actually can weaken your lawn by encouraging shallow roots that are less tolerant of dry periods.

- Keep your mower blades sharp to prevent tearing of grass and raise your lawn mower's blade to 2 1/2". Longer grass provides shade for the roots and helps reduce water loss.
- Decrease the size of your lawn by creating pebbled areas or planting drought-tolerant ground covers, such as liriopse or monkey grass.
- Select ornamental plants that can withstand periods with low water
- Mulch around plants, shrubs and trees to provide a ground cover that reduces water evaporation from the soil while reducing the number of weeds that compete for soil moisture.
- Collect cold water from the tap in watering cans for use in the garden when waiting for water to get warm.



For more information about ecological gardening, visit the lawn and garden section under www.mass.gov/dep/consumer/