

Personal Water Use Calculator

Using basic addition and multiplication determine **YOUR** average weekly water usage in gallons.

Key:

gal = gallons gpm = gallons per minute
gpf = gallons per flush gpl = gallons per load

Directions:

Follow the questionnaire to determine your average weekly water usage. Answer the questions, filling in the blanks when prompted. Using the given multiplication and addition problems calculate your total water usage in the bathroom, kitchen/laundry room, and outdoors. Add up your totals on the far right column to determine your overall average weekly water usage. At the end of the questionnaire there is an additional calculation to help you determine your daily water usage. Compare your daily water usage to that of the average American, and learn about some easy things you can do to save water around your home!

Bathroom

~Bath~

Total number of baths you take per week? _____ X 40 gal = **Total Bath** _____

~Shower~

Do you have a standard or a low-flow shower head? (if unsure use standard calculation)

Total number of showers you take per week? _____ → Total # of showers _____

Average length of shower (in minutes)? _____ minutes X 3.8gpm standard (or unsure) _____
_____ minutes X 2.0gpm low-flow Total gpm _____

Total # of showers X Total gpm = **Total Shower** _____



~Toilet~

Do you have a standard or a low-flow toilet?

**(Keep in mind where you are flushing; at home, at school, at work.*

Not every place you flush during the day has the same type of toilet)

How many times per day do you flush the toilet? _____ X 4.0gpf standard (or unsure) = _____ gpf
_____ X 1.6gpf low-flow = _____ gpf
(move this total to formula below) Add to get total: _____ gpf

Now add your total and multiply
by 7 days to get your weekly total _____ total gpf X 7 days in the week =

Total Toilet _____



~Sink~

Do you have a standard or a low-flow faucet on your bathroom sink(s)?

Think about how many times you wash your hands, brush your teeth, wash your face, shave, etc at the sink each day.
Do you leave the water running the whole time?

How many minutes do you spend running the water

while doing all of these activities per day? _____ minutes X 3.0gpm standard (or unsure) = _____ gpm
_____ minutes X 1.5gpm low-flow = _____ gpm
(move this total to formula below) Add to get total: _____ gpm

Now add your total and multiply
by 7 days to get your weekly total _____ total gpm X 7 days in the week =

Total Sink _____

Kitchen/Laundry Room

~Dishes~

Do you wash your dishes by hand or in a dishwasher?

Dishes by hand: Please follow either **Option A** or **Option B**

Option A: You fill and plug the sink with soapy water to soak and scrub the dishes before rinsing them in running water.

(This option adds an extra 5gallons of water per wash)

OR

Option B: You soap up the dishes with a scrubber then rinse in running water.



Option A: Total number of times you wash dishes by hand each week: _____ X 15gal
Option B: Total number of times you wash dishes by hand each week: _____ X 10gal **Total Dishes by Hand** _____

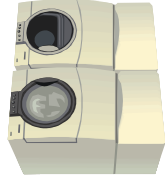
Dishes by Dishwasher:

Do you have a standard dishwasher or an Energy Star approved dishwasher?

Do you wait until you have a full load before running the dishwasher?

**Waiting until the dishwasher is full before running saves you time, water, and money in the long run.*

Total number of times you run the dishwasher per week _____ X 20gpl standard
 _____ X 10gal energy star **Total Dishwasher** _____



~Laundry~

Do you have a washing machine in your home?

If so, do you have a standard washing machine or an energy star approved washing machine?

Do you wait until you have a full load before running the washing machine?

**Waiting until the washing machine is full before running saves you time, water, and money in the long run.*

Total number of times you run the washing machine per week _____ X 40gpl standard
 _____ X 20gpl energy star **Total Laundry** _____

Outdoor Water Usage

**This total typically changes throughout the year. Do you water your grass as much in the winter as you do in the summer? Probably not. Try filling out the calculator at different times during the year to see how your water use changes over time.*

How many times do you wash your car each week? _____ X 14gal **Total Car Wash** _____

How many times per week do you water your grass or landscape plants? _____

Average number of minutes the water runs while you water? _____ minutes X 1.5gpm = _____ gpm

Now multiply number of times you water per week by the gpm you got from the average number of minutes you water to get your overall outdoor watering total. **Total Outdoor Watering** _____

~Leaks~

Do you know of a leak inside or outside your home? **Even a slow leak can take its toll on your overall water usage. If you know of a leak in or outside of your home, fix it as soon as possible.*

Total number of leaks inside or outside your home _____ X 25gal **Total Leak** _____

Now total up all of your totals in the far right column to see your average weekly water usage in gallons.

Overall Total: On average I use _____ gallons of water per week

Ready for a bit more math? To calculate your daily water usage, divide your total weekly water usage by 7 days in the week. Your daily water usage is _____ gallons.

Did you know....

The average American uses between **100** and **200** gallons of water per day! How do you compare to the average American citizen? There are many things you can do to cut back on your water usage.

Let's start with the 3 things responsible for using the most water: toilets, sinks, and showers. In 1992 **The Federal Energy Policy Act** required that all water faucets, showerheads, and toilets manufactured in the United States have a flow rate of no more than 2.5 gallons per minute. Not ready to go out and buy brand new water fixtures? You are in luck! There are several **simple and inexpensive ways to cut back on water usage without having to buy all new fixtures**. An easy way to reduce the water put out by your faucets is to install an **aerator** attachment to your faucet. Aerators are little fixtures added to an already existing faucet that just adds air into the water flow. Aerator attachments can be found at your local hardware store and are often inexpensive and easy to install. Ask someone at the hardware store to help you pick out the best aerator for you and your faucets. Another option is to replace your standard showerhead with an aerated or low-flow showerhead. Last, but certainly not least, are toilets. You could replace your current toilet(s) with a water-saving low-flow toilet, many of which can be purchased for under \$100, OR you could take a **1liter plastic bottle**, fill it with water, secure the cap, and place it in the back of your toilet tank. This very easy tactic has little or no effect on the flushing ability of your toilet, but saves a lot of water per flush. **Give it a Try!**

As far as saving water around the rest of your house (and outside) try switching from standard appliances to energy star appliances. Although the up-front cost for many energy star rated appliances is higher than that of standard appliances, the long-term energy and water consumption is much less and will end up saving you more money than you originally spent. Also, when watering your grass or landscape, instead of leaving the hose running for long periods of time to try and soak a particular area, try using a drip hose, or a sprinkler. If you find that you water your landscape plants more frequently than you'd like, try looking into **xeriscaping** or **xerogardening** (the act of landscaping or gardening using plants and other materials that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation), or just swapping a few of your landscape plants for native plants that require little to no extra watering outside of natural rainfall.



Your water.
Your environment.
Your voice.

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