

## How Much Water Does Your Household Use?

Saving water is easy when you think about it. Here is a fun and easy way to see how water-wise you are around your home.

1 **How many people live in your household?**

2 **How many total minutes does each member of the household spend in the shower per day?**  
Example: 7 minutes for Kate + 16 minutes for Jim = 23 minutes

3 **How many gallons per week does your household use for showering?**  
Showerhead installed after 1992: average flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm).  
2.5 gpm x 7 days x (number of minutes question 2) =

Showerhead installed before 1992: average flow rate of 5.5 gpm  
5.5 gpm x 7 days x (number of minutes from question 2) =

4 **How many baths does your household take each week?**  
The average bathtub holds 50 gallons of water and a Jacuzzi tub may hold over 100 gal.  
(# of baths per week) x (50 gallons per bath) =

5 **Do you have a leaking toilet in your household?**  
*Sometimes it is hard to tell, so place some food coloring in the tank and wait a while to see if it leaks into the bowl.*  
If YES, on average leaks can waste up to 1400 gallons per week (enter figure in box)   
If NO, you are wasting 0 gallons per week from your toilet (enter figure in box)

6 **How many gallons of water does your toilet use per week?**  
a. Toilets manufactured before 1980 use 5.0 to 7.0 or higher gallons per flush.   
b. Toilets manufactured between 1980 and 1992 use 3.5 gallons per flush or more.   
c. Toilets manufactured after 1992 use between 1.6 and 3.5 gallons per flush.   
Your household will use: (we used an average of 35 flushes per week per person)  
(# of gallons toilet uses from above) x (35 flushes) x (# of people in household) =

7 **Do you or those in your household leave the tap running while brushing teeth?**  
*Newer faucets run 1.5 gallons per minute. Older faucets run 4 to 7 gallons per minute.*  
If NO, (based on using a newer faucet) an average of ½ gallon of water is used each time you brush your teeth (7 gallons per week).  
Your household uses:  
(Number of people in household) x (7 gallons per week) =   
If YES, for how many minutes in total will the tap run in your household each day for cleaning teeth?   
Your household uses:  
(1.5 gallons per minute) x (7 days) x (number of minutes from above)

8 **Overall, do you try to save water in your kitchen?**  
*For example: Have you installed water efficient taps? Do you only run the dishwasher when it's full?*  
If YES, your household will use around 125 gallons per week (enter number in box)   
If NO, your household will use around 140 gallons per week (enter number in box)

9 **How many loads of laundry are done by your household each week?**

10 **Do you have a water efficient front loading washing machine?**

If NO, an average top loading washing machine uses 41 gallons per load.

Your household uses:

41 gallons x (enter answer from question 8)

If YES, a high-efficiency front loading washing machine uses about 28 gallons per load.

28 gallons x (enter answer from question 8)

11 **Do you have a garden, and if so do you try to save water with methods such as drip irrigation, tap timers, mulching and water efficient plants?**

If YES, your household uses around 170 gallons per week (enter number in box)

If NO, your household uses around 300 gallons per week (enter number in box)

If you have no garden, you will use 0 gallons per week for gardening. (enter number in box)

12 **Does your household have a rainwater tank, or a greywater system for re-using water?**

If YES, on average, your household saves 230 gallons per week.

13 **Estimate the average number of minutes per week (for the months of May – September) that water is used outdoors for watering your lawn.**

Outdoor watering uses 5 to 10 gallons per minute. So in 10 or 20 minutes, you may use 100 gallons

(7.5 gpm) x (number of minutes per week) =

14 **Estimate the average number of minutes per week (for the months of May – September) that water is used outdoors for purposes other than lawn watering.**

(7.5 gpm) x (number of minutes per week) =

**Total Water Usage**

(ADD your numbers from the blue boxes)

**Total Water Savings**

(ADD your numbers from the peach box)

**Total water used in your household per week**

(total water usage – total water savings)

**Total water used by each person per week**

(divide total water used by the number of household members)

**Total water used by each person per day**

(divide total water used per person per week by 7 days)

**How Water Wise Is Your Household?**

**Water Consumption Per Person:**

**< 320 Gallons per week:** Great Work! Your household is using water wisely.

**320 - 425 Gallons per week:** On the Way.

**> 425 Gallons per week:** You use a lot of water!!!

**For more information on how to use water wisely, please refer to <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/countyDpt/WaterRes/default.asp>, contact your local municipality, or call the McHenry County Water Resource Manager.**