

Water Use Activity

Typical water use at home

Bath	A "full tub" varies, of course, but 36 gallons is a good average amount. Tip: Taking a shower instead of a bath should save water.
Shower	Old showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Water-saving shower heads produce about 2 gallons per minute. Tip: Taking a shorter shower using a low-flow showerhead saves water.
Teeth brushing	<1 gallon. Newer bath faucets use about 1 gallon per minute, whereas older models use over 2 gallons. Tip: Turn the faucet off when brushing teeth.
Hands/face washing	1 gallon Tip: Turn the faucet off before drying your hands and face. If you don't mind a brisk wash, don't run the faucet until it gets hot before using it. Installing a faucet-head aerator will also reduce the water flow rate.
Face/leg shaving	1 gallon Tip: Turn the faucet off when shaving.
Dishwasher	6-16 gallons. Newer, EnergyStar models use 6 gallons or less per wash cycle, whereas older dishwashers might use up to 16 gallons per cycle. Tip: EnergyStar dishwashers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
Dishwashing by hand:	About 8-27 gallons. This all depends on how efficient you are at hand-washing dishes. Newer kitchen faucets use about 1.5-2 gallons per minutes, whereas older faucets use more. Tip: Efficient hand-washing techniques include installing an aerator in your faucet head and scraping food off, soaking dishes in a basin of soapy water before getting started, and not letting the water run while you wash every dish. It's best to have two basins to work in--one filled with hot, soapy water, the other with warm water for a rinse.
Clothes washer	25 gallons/load for newer washers. Older models might use about 40 gallons per load. Tip: EnergyStar clothes washers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
Toilet flush	3 gallons. Most new toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, but many older toilets used about 4 gallons. Tip: <u>Check for toilet leaks!</u> <u>Adjust the water level</u> in your tank. It is best to install a new low-flow toilet.
Glasses of water you drank	8 oz. per glass (not counting water for your dogs or your cats)

(Source: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/activity-percapita.php>)