

## Water Use Activity

### Typical water use at home

<b>Bath</b>	A "full tub" varies, of course, but 36 gallons is a good average amount. <b>Tip:</b> Taking a shower instead of a bath should save water.
<b>Shower</b>	Old showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Water-saving shower heads produce about 2 gallons per minute. <b>Tip:</b> Taking a shorter shower using a low-flow showerhead saves water.
<b>Teeth brushing</b>	<1 gallon. Newer bath faucets use about 1 gallon per minute, whereas older models use over 2 gallons. <b>Tip:</b> Turn the faucet off when brushing teeth.
<b>Hands/face washing</b>	1 gallon <b>Tip:</b> 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.
<b>Face/leg shaving</b>	1 gallon <b>Tip:</b> Turn the faucet off when shaving.
<b>Dishwasher</b>	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. <b>Tip:</b> EnergyStar dishwashers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
<b>Dishwashing by hand:</b>	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. <b>Tip:</b> 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.
<b>Clothes washer</b>	25 gallons/load for newer washers. Older models might use about 40 gallons per load. <b>Tip:</b> EnergyStar clothes washers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
<b>Toilet flush</b>	3 gallons. Most new toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, but many older toilets used about 4 gallons. <b>Tip:</b> <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.
<b>Glasses of water you drank</b>	8 oz. per glass (not counting water for your dogs or your cats)

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