

Grandpa Don's handy-dandy tips:
How to save water in 2015
(Conserve: It's good for everyone!)



Saving one drop at a time or one gallon at a time really pays off! It can save money on your water bill (remember, water isn't free – if you're not paying for it, someone else is.) It makes sense for environmental purposes and helps ensure there will be water for our children and grandchildren.

A few things to consider:

- Water providers, such as Denver Water, offer rebates for new toilets, washing machines and other water appliances. Check out www.Denverwater.org/rebates.
- When replacing a water device, use one that carries the Water Sense seal of approval. It certifies that the new toilet or other water device won't be a water-waster.

Easy things to do to save water:

- * Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints (saves up to 20 gallons a day or 600 gallons a month).
- * Run only full loads of laundry (saves 300 to 700 gallons a month).
- * Take shorter showers, only one to two minutes a day (saves 700 gallons a month).
- * Flush only when necessary (saves 400 to 600 gallons per month). A toilet isn't an ash tray.
- * Check old toilets for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. In 15 minutes, if the water in the bowl is colored, you probably have a leak that could be wasting 400 extra gallons a month. (The new, high-efficiency toilets work great and save lots of water, too!)
- * If you do dishes by hand, don't leave the rinse water constantly running (saves 200 to 500 gallons a month).
- * Keep bottles of water in the refrigerator rather than running the sink faucet until the water becomes cold (saves 200-300 gallons a month).
- * Don't run the faucet when cleaning vegetables. Rinse them in a pan or water-filled sink (save 150 to 200 gallons a month).
- * If you are thinking about replacing your washer, consider buying a front-loading model.

A cute (or maybe, controversial) ad about saving water in San Francisco can be found at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3o4GdsSX870&list=UUPzLXCg4Ebt3WICF9h2mc_g

Here's the poop about your sewer line...

Most people have a 4" sewer line that exits their home and flows into a bigger, main line in their community.

In general, you are responsible for your private line. That means if the line clogs or becomes blocked, it is your responsibility – not someone else's – to get it unclogged.

There are some things people should do to help prevent sewer back-ups. Have a company clean your line every 2-3 years. Many companies offer the service for \$99 or less. That's far cheaper than the cost of cleaning up smelly sewage on your basement floors, carpets or walls.

Things you should never put down your sink (to prevent sewer clogs): Grease, fibrous **fruits** and vegetables (example: celery), potato peels, rice or pasta, coffee grounds and egg shells.

Things you should never flush in a toilet: feminine products of any kind, paper towels, wet wipes or diapers.

Never flush any product that claims to be bio-degradable or eco-friendly. They can cause a sewer clog.

Side-view illustration of a sewer line: top sketch shows a clean line while the bottom shows how grease clogs up a line.

