

Tips to Reduce Your Water Usage

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- Repair water leaks and toilet runs
- Install a low flush toilet
- Minimize the time you let the water run
- If your water comes from City of Bozeman, download the app DropCountr at the App Store for Apple or Google Play for Android or on the web at www.dropcountr.com/bozeman and check your water usage weekly
- Parents: Involve the Kids with Water Conserving Activities

Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators

See if you qualify for these Bozeman city water customers' Free Swaps and Rebates for low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Check the links.

The Free Showerhead Swap is explained at <http://www.bozeman.net/government/water-conservation/freeproducts> and expects its use can save you 2500 gallons of water a year.

A second program, Bozeman's Rebate program for Showerheads and other water-saving products, is explained at <https://www.bozeman.net/government/water-conservation/new-rebates/new-indoor-residential-rebates> . Check out their offers to save water and money.

The City also has some faucet aerators to give away free to residents who are connected to City water because the aerator can reduce the average family's use of water by over 500 gallons per year. Details of that program are at <http://www.bozeman.net/government/water-conservation/freeproducts> .

Note: Many stores sell the low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, so if the swap or rebate programs are not for you, you can head to the store to buy these.

Repair water leaks and toilet runs

Check Faucets and Pipes for Leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Some faucet leaks are easily spotted, but others take a little more effort to locate. Dry sinks and tubs thoroughly and allow to sit for an hour. If you notice wetness, you've found a leak. To find leaks from faucet handles, dry the area around them before running water. You'll see water collecting next to them if there's a leak.

Use Your Water Meter to Check for Hidden Water Leaks

Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak. (Source: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/45-ways-to-conserve-water-in-the-home-and-yard/>)

Install a low flush toilet

If you invest in a low-flush toilet, you're down to using almost half the water for a flush, saving both money and lots of precious H₂O. Bozeman has a Toilet Rebate Program for its residential water customers. You can find out about it at <https://www.bozeman.net/government/water-conservation/new-rebates/new-indoor-residential-rebates> (There is also a Clothes Washer Rebate Program link on the same web page.)

Minimize the time you let water run

Take 5-minute showers – use a timer

Shorten your showers to only **5 minutes**. Showers can use five to ten gallons in every unneeded minute the water runs. (Source: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/45-ways-to-conserve-water-in-the-home-and-yard/>) Plus, a shorter shower means saving energy to heat the water.

Do you know about a “Navy shower”? The term is used for a water-saving technique that was started in the Navy to help save precious freshwater aboard ships. Hop in the shower, get wet all over, turn off the water while soaping up, and then rinse clean. A regular shower can use as much as 60 gallons of water, while a Navy shower can check in at about 3 gallons.

Turn off the water when you brush your teeth

If you turn the water off as you brush your teeth, you can save three gallons each time. That turns into thousands of gallons saved annually (assuming you brush twice a day, like my dental hygienist Caroline recommends.)

Use Dropcountr online to track your water usage

If your water comes from City of Bozeman, make an account to show you your water usage at www.dropcountr.com/bozeman or download the app Dropcountr. You will need your account number and the address where you are getting water service. If you need help setting up your account, contact support@dropcountr.com . Check Dropcountr regularly to track your water usage, set goals, and find out about rebates offered for specific items to save water.

Parents: Involve your kids with water-conserving activities

You can find Kids Activities from the Bozeman Water Conservation Division at <https://www.bozeman.net/government/water-conservation/new-do-your-part-water-saving-resources/kid-s-activities> . Kits/Activities include:

Shower Better Challenge Kid’s Kit

Can-Do Sprinkler Test Kit

Brush Better Kid’s Kit

Fix a Leak Kid’s Activity