

Maintenance Checklist for a Water-Efficient Home



Do This Once Per Year to Save Water:

- Check your home for leaks (indoors and outdoors) and repair them promptly. Find instructions on WaterSense's website at www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.
- Make sure your toilets aren't continuously running. Check for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 10 minutes; if color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Flush afterwards to avoid staining.
- Inspect showerheads and faucets for scale buildup and clean if necessary. Add new plumbing tape to ensure a tight fit.
- Add mulch as needed over landscaped areas in your yard.
- Check your irrigation system for breaks and leaks, signs of overwatering or underwatering, and areas of overspray, and repair or adjust as necessary. See WaterSense's Sprinkler Spruce-Up web page at www.epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up and Watering Tips web page at www.epa.gov/watersense/watering-tips.
- Test your pool's automatic refill system and fill valve.
- Winterize your irrigation system and pool to prepare for cold weather.
- Check your service water pressure and adjust or replace your pressure-regulating valve if necessary.
- Have a professional service your home's water heater and water softener (if one is installed). If you like to do it yourself, make sure to flush your water heater to reduce sediment buildup; check the water heater's temperature and pressure valve; and clean your water softener's brine tank.

Check These Areas More Frequently for Water Waste:

Daily

- Turn off faucets and hose bibbs unless you are actively using water.
- Run only full loads of laundry and dishes and skip extra rinse cycles.
- During swim season, cover your pool when it's not in use.

Monthly

- Compare your water bill to the same month of the previous year to identify leaks.
- Weed your landscaped areas so more water is available for plants.
- Allow your grass to grow two to three inches tall before mowing.
- If you don't have a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, revise your irrigation system's schedule according to seasonal weather changes.
- Check the salt level of your water softener and break up salt bridges.

Do This Every Few Years to Save Water:

- Hire an irrigation professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program using WaterSense's Find a Pro tool at www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro to assess your irrigation system and provide recommendations to improve its water efficiency.
- Replace old toilet flappers to ensure a good seal and avoid toilet leaks.

Learn more at www.epa.gov/watersense/home-maintenance.