Take short showers. Decreasing showers to under 5 minutes can reduce monthly consumption up to 1,000 gallons each month.

Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don’t have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.

Only wash full loads of dishes and clothes.

Shut off the faucet while brushing teeth; this can save up to 4 gallons per minute.

Flush the toilet only when necessary. Don’t use it to flush tissues.

Repair leaky toilets and faucets. One drip every second adds up to 5 gallons per day.

Use a soaker hose to water plants more efficiently.

Only water landscaping and lawns at night.

Leave lawn clippings on your grass, this cools the ground and holds in moisture.

Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.

Avoid hosing down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, and driveways; instead use a broom.

Limit car washing at home or use commercial car washes that recycle water.

Please check out this site for additional tips on how you can use water wisely: wateruseitwisely.com.
Leaks can account for up to 14% of all water use. Finding and repairing leaks in the home is an important step in using water wisely. A vital key to leak detection is monitoring the water bill for unusually high usage.

**Faucets**

- Worn washers in household faucets and showerheads are a common cause of household leaks. A single faucet leaking at the rate of one drip every second can add up to five gallons per day! All faucets, including seldom-used taps in the basement and storage rooms, should be checked periodically.

**Tips**

- Faucet leaks are usually caused by worn washers or “O” rings.
- To repair a faucet leak, turn off the water supply line to that faucet, replace the washer, and turn on the water line again.

**Toilets**

- Toilet leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water in a month, because the leaks tend to be less noticeable than faucet leaks.

**Tips**

- If you can hear or see water running into the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- Silent leaks can also occur. Be sure to test for silent leaks at least once a year.

**How to test a toilet for a silent leak:**

- Add food coloring into the tank. Do not flush. Wait for 10 minutes.
- If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl there is a leak. The leak could be a result of a worn out plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank.