

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER IF YOU RENT AN APARTMENT?

Regularly check for leaks in your faucets, spigots, toilets, water pipes, washing machine and its hoses, dishwasher, etc. A leak in a water pipe, a sticking “flapper” in a toilet tank, or any other type of leak can waste thousands of gallons of water in one month.

If you find a leak, contact the property manager/maintenance staff about getting it fixed. When a non-irrigation leak is fixed, you may be eligible for an account adjustment if the OWASA account is in your name. Please see [Adjustments to Your Account after a Leak Has Been Repaired](#), contact OWASA Customer Service at 537-4343 or send e-mail to webmaster@owasa.org for more information.

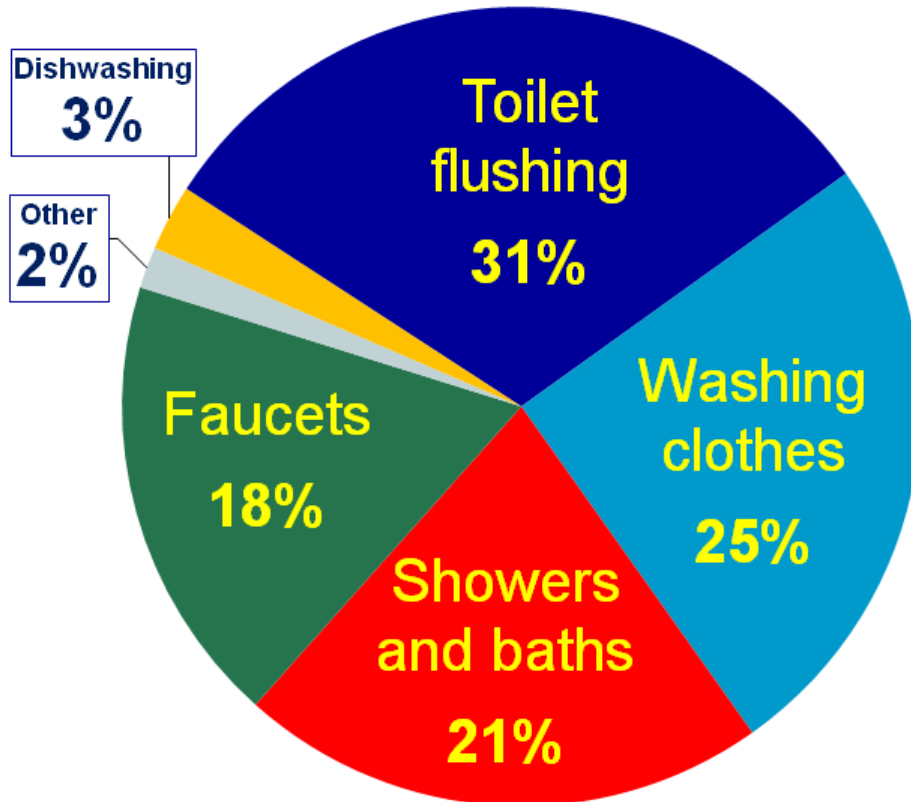
- One of the simplest ways to check for leaks is to listen carefully for the sound of running water at night or another quiet time when no faucets or fixtures are in use.
- Toilets are one of the most common places for leaks.
- To check your toilet for a leak, put food dye in the tank, don't flush for 15 to 30 minutes and look for dye in the toilet bowl. If there is dye in the bowl, there is probably a leak in the flapper at the bottom of the tank or the “fill valve” may be leaking or malfunctioning.

There are several ways to reduce your water use:

- **Toilets:** Lower the water level in the toilet tank by adjusting the fill valve. (Please check first with the property manager/maintenance staff about whether it is Ok for you to do this and how to do it properly.)
- Put a bottle or other container of water in the toilet tank to reduce the amount of water use for flushing. **However, make sure that the container does not interfere with operation of the flapper, etc.** If you find yourself having to flush twice, take out the container. Flushing twice uses more water than you save with the container!
- **When showering:** Take short showers (5 minutes or less). For extra savings, turn off the shower while you lather and scrub.
- **When waiting for hot water:** Before hot water comes through a faucet or showerhead, catch and use the lukewarm water to water your house plants, etc.
- **When brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving,** turn off the water.
- **Wash clothes or dishes** only when you have a full load of dishes or laundry.
- **In case of emergency:** Make sure that you know the location of the **shut-off valve for the plumbing system** so that you can turn off the water quickly if you have a major leak. Please contact the property manager/maintenance staff to find out whether there is a water shut-off valve for your apartment and where it is.

HOW IS WATER USED IN A RESIDENCE?

National research indicates that toilet flushing, clothes washing and showering/bathing are the largest intentional indoor uses of water. This means that for many families, these are the best opportunities to conserve.



COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FOR OWASA?

We invite you to contact OWASA Public Affairs at 919-537-4267 or webmaster@owasa.org.