

the regular eighteen-liter-per-flush toilet with an ultralow volume one—about six liters per flush—you save over 20 percent of your total indoor water use. You can self-install aerators (for around ten dollars) and low-flow showerheads (around thirty to fifty dollars); low-flow

4:1
approximate ratio
of water used for a
typical bath to that
used for a five-
minute shower
(using a conven-
tional shower
head).

(Environmental
 Protection Agency,
 2007)

toilets cost about five hundred dollars, installed. You can also get a hands-free faucet (pedalvalve.com), which reduces consumption by allowing you to turn off the water even when your hands are occupied.

Water your garden and yard in the early morning or night. Because there's less evaporation then, more water goes into the ground.

Set the dishwasher for “energy-saving” or “light wash.” These conservation modes use less water and run for less time. If dishes are really soiled, of course, then go for the more powerful setting; you don't want to have to run the load a second time.

Keep a cold one going. If you prefer your drinking water icy-cold, keep a pitcher of it in the fridge. It saves on all that tap water we waste each time we stand there, thirsty, waiting for the stream to chill.



HEALTHY BYTE

The Waterless Car Wash

Started by a mom with a chemically sensitive child, Green Earth Waterless Car Wash (greenearthcarwash.com) sells an effective, simple-to-use product that can save hundreds of gallons per use; it's biodegradable; dye-, VOC-, and fragrance-free; and made with organic coconut soaps.

In addition to conserving a supremely limited and vital natural resource, using less water in your home means releasing fewer contami-