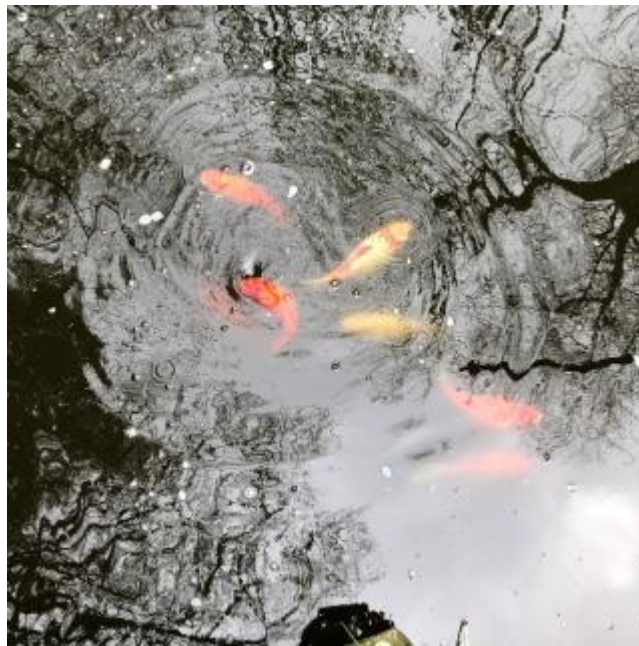


## GREEN Living: Water Conservation in Your Home the Easy Way – Part 1



If there is anything that is taken for granted it is water and yet, along with air, we can't survive long without it. It's time for a little water appreciation, and to appreciate water is to treat it with the respect it deserves by conserving it. Water is a precious resource.

In the spirit of ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** let's look at sustainable practices for maintaining a clean and healthy supply of water. As climate change worsens, we'll be experiencing more droughts, and with droughts come water shortages. Not only will these easy measures protect one of our most precious resources, but they will reduce your carbon footprint and save you money on your water bill and sewer tax. On average, Americans use 80 to 100 gallons of water a day (29,000 gallons a year). That's a lot!

Following are some simple tips to help you easily reduce your water consumption. First, let's start with one of the most basic tips.

**Water Meter Check for Hidden Leaks.** Here's an easy test to see if you may have unknown leaks. Jot down your home's water meter reading and then don't use water for two hours. After two hours, jot down the number on the water meter. If they don't match you have a leak.

### **The Bathroom**

**Toilets** use the most water in your home, so they are a high impact place to start.

**Check for leaks** by putting a few drops of food dye in the tank – if the color appears in the bowl within 15 minutes you have a leak that can waste up to 100 gallons a day.

**Use less water to flush.** This can be accomplished in many ways.

**New toilets** use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush as per Federal regulations, but many use less and can save you up to 70% in water savings. Look for models that meet the EPA WaterSense standard of 1.28 gallons per flush or less.

**Dual flush converters** can turn a standard toilet into a dual flush toilet and save you up to 15,000 gallons annually.

**Use a plastic bottle.** To use less water in a flush, fill a one-liter plastic bottle with water and put it in your tank away from the toilet flush mechanism. This can save you five gallons daily and you won't even notice the difference.

**Install an adjustable toilet flapper.** An adjustable flapper allows you to adjust the amount of water to flush and save water at the same time.

**Showers and baths** are a good place to look for easy conservation as they are the third largest consumer of water in the home. Hot showers use around 30% of a home's water and energy expenses.

**Take shorter showers** and reduce both your water usage and carbon footprint. Try turning the water off when you lather up to reduce your shower time to four-minutes, which uses between 8 – 40 gallons of water depending upon the efficiency of your shower head. Don't turn the water volume to the max to easily save water and money.

**Use a shower timer or smart shower head.** If you like gadgets try a shower timer to monitor your water usage or cut off the warm water after a pre-set time.

**Install a water-saving shower head and/or flow restrictors.** This is an inexpensive and easy solution to go from 10 gallons a minute to about three gallons a minute and you probably won't see much difference.

**Sinks** provide some easy water conservation opportunities.

**Check for leaks in your faucets and pipes.** A small leak can waste 20 gallons while a larger leak can waste hundreds of gallons a day.

**Install aerators on faucets.** Low-flow aerators are inexpensive and save water.

**Turn off the water when brushing your teeth and shaving.** When shaving fill the sink a little and use that water to rinse your razor.

Thank you for giving water the respect it deserves by treating it as a valuable resource. For more information on how to conserve water click <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

The Ardsley Village Conservation and Environment Advisory Committee

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