

## 1. What's your Water IQ?



1. What percent of the earth's water is fresh water?

50%, 22%, 3%, 6%

2. On average, what % of water in the home is lost through leaks?

2.9%, 13.7%, 9.3%, 15%

3. What % of bottled water "bottles" end up in landfills each year?

86%, 92%, 44%, 13%

4. Which of these uses the most water?

Faucet, Shower, Clothes Washer

5. What % of U.S. water supply goes to farming?

99%, 65%, 52%, 70%

Answers below...



### A Water Commission Thank You!

Thanks to our hard working and dedicated water and sewer staff. They ensure that every time we turn on a faucet or wash a dish we have fresh and safe water, and every time we flush or take a shower the waste is processed into environmentally safe water. We take our water and sewer systems for granted and that's because staff is there 24/7. Never having to think about whether water will come out of the tap is a testament to the outstanding job the water and sewer departments perform every day.



Answers: (1) 3%, (2) 13.7%, (3) 86%, (4) clothes washer, (5) 70%



## Do You Know ....

... how much water we use for daily tasks?

*Here are some numbers to be your guide.*

- A five-minute shower uses approximately 25 gallons (calculated at 5 gallons a minute). Install a low-flow shower head to reduce water use to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- A typical full bathtub can hold 35 gallons of water.
- A toilet uses 3.5 to 6 gallons of water per flush depending on how old it is; a new toilet only uses 1.6 gallons per flush or less!
- Running water continuously while brushing your teeth can use 1 - 3 gallons of water per minute, depending on the flow rate of the faucet.
- An automatic clothes washer uses 30-60 gallons of water for a full cycle.

*"Better water quality through smarter gardening"*

**"Bay-Wise"** landscape techniques improve the health of our streams, rivers, and Chesapeake Bay.

<http://baywise.umd.edu/>



# Town of Mount Airy

## Saving Water Indoors



Water conservation tips to save our precious resource and reduce your water bill.

Town of Mount Airy  
Water & Sewer Commission  
For more information visit the  
Town of Mount Airy website:  
<http://www.mountairymd.org/>

## Getting Started



### Leak Control

- Check for hidden leaks in your water system. Turn off all faucets in and around your house, then check the reading on your water meter. Wait 15 minutes without turning any water on, then check the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow leak can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you will save about 6,000 gallons a year.
- Check for leaks in the toilet using a toilet leak detection kit.



### Shower Time!

- Put timers in your family bathrooms to encourage shorter showers. Reducing your time in the shower by one minute will save hundreds of gallons per household each month.



### Think at the Sink

- Limit water waste at the sink by running water just to wet and rinse the toothbrush instead of allowing the water to run while brushing your teeth. Apply the same idea when washing your hands.
- Men should turn off the water while they shave. Running water faucets use 1.5 - 7 gallons per minute (depending on the age of the faucet).
- In the kitchen, fill a basin or the sink with soapy water instead of letting the water run continuously when washing dishes by hand. Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.

## Dive in Deeper



### Washing Machine

- Wash only full loads of clothes and use the coldest setting possible. This approach saves water and energy.
- Match the load setting with the amount of laundry to be washed if you must wash partial loads.



### Dishwasher

- Only run the dishwasher when it's full. Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads.
- Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing them and limit pre-rinsing of dishes if you are using the dishwasher.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal; compost food scraps or toss them in the garbage bin instead.



### Toilet

- Check your toilets for leaks and repair any that you find. Replace the older toilets in your home with low flow toilets.

### Mount Airy Water Facts

Residential and business customers use 217 million gallons of water per year. Our water and sewer departments spends \$1.9 million annually to bring you fresh, clean, and safe water and dispose of the waste water. The Mt. Airy water system supplies water and sewer services to 3,400 customers.

## Preserving Every Drop



### Upgrade with Efficiency

- Replace water wasting appliances with energy efficient ones - Energy Star approved laundry machines and dishwashers save a significant amount of water and energy.



### Water Saving Fixtures

- Replace older, high-volume flushing toilets with WaterSense\* or low-flow versions.
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets.
- Replace older shower heads with new low-flow models.



### Save the leftovers!

- Rinse fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water rather than running the faucet. Use the leftover water to water household plants.
- Place a bucket in the shower to collect water while it heats up. Use the water on plants or to flush the toilet.



**\*WaterSense** is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



designed to make it easy for Americans to save water and protect the environment by choosing water efficient products and services.

You can check out the website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>