

- **Take a shower instead of a bath**, which usually requires more water, and limit showers to five minutes.

- **Install toilet tank displacement inserts** or dams to reduce the volume of water in the tank and the amount used per flush in conventional toilets. It is the height of water in the tank, more so than the volume, that causes the bowl to flush. A plastic jug or similar receptacle, filled with stones or water to weight it down, can be used as an alternative to purchased inserts.

- **Find and fix leaks in toilets as soon as detected.** The most common causes of toilet leaks are worn flush valve balls, improperly adjusted water levels, worn valve seats and leaking fill valves. Leaks can occur silently. To identify a leak, place a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet in the upper toilet tank. Observe for about 10 minutes. If the color appears in the bowl, a leak is present.

- **Install low-volume flush toilets**, most of which use only 1.6 gallons per flush, when building a new home or remodeling a bathroom.

- **Do not use the toilet to flush away objects** that should be thrown away.

- **Find and fix leaks in faucets** and other water-using appliances. Such problems can usually be fixed cheaply and quickly by replacing worn washers or “O” rings.

- **Wash hands with cool water** instead of hot.

- **Use sink and tub stoppers** to avoid wasting water when shaving, washing hands, washing dishes and related activities.

- **Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth** and use a glass of water for rinsing.

- **Turn water faucets off** tightly after use.

## IN THE KITCHEN

- **Use dishwashers only** when they are full. The average dishwasher uses up to 16 gallons of water per load.

- **Use the stopper in the sink** or a pan of water to soak pots, pans, dishes and cooking utensils, then hand wash to save water, energy, detergent and money.

