



On Kaua'i, the average person uses 60 gallons of water each day. By using water more efficiently you can cut that amount by up to 25%. Our usable water is a limited resource that can quickly become scarce if we do not take measures to conserve and protect it. By conserving you will save money on your utility bills. You will also save energy by reducing the amount of water you heat and pump. And you will help save our precious environment by easing the burden on storage and distribution facilities. Here are some easy watersaving tips.

1 Regularly check pipes, hoses, valves and faucets for leaks. The most common cause of water waste is a leaky faucet. A slowly dripping faucet can waste about 15 gallons of water a day. That can add up to over \$25 per month on your water bill. It does not take very long before calling a plumber is less expensive than your leak.

2 Install low-flow aerators on all of your faucets. These will save hundreds of gallons every week.

3 Install water-saving shower heads. In combination with taking shorter showers, these shower heads can save as much as 75% of the water you now use when you shower.

4 The average tub holds 50 gallons of water. Conserve by only partially filling the tub.

5 A toilet leak can be hard to detect. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If water is still running into the bowl, or water can be heard running, your toilet is leaking.

6 Add food coloring to the water in the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak. Fix or replace the toilet. Your toilet can be one of your biggest water wasters. Every time you flush, gallons of water go into your septic tank, cesspool or sewer. With older toilets, every flush takes 3 to 5 gallons. That is a lot of water. Newer toilets require only 1.6 gallons per flush.

7 You can cut back on the amount of water your toilet uses by not using your toilet as a waste paper basket. Flushing away tissues, gum wrappers, cigarette butts or anything else that belongs in the wastebasket or garbage can is a phenomenal waste of water.

8 Don't leave the water running while shaving or brushing your teeth.



While 75% of the water we consume indoors happens in the bathroom, washing clothes and dishes uses 20% and cooking and drinking take up the remaining 5%.

9 Wrapping hot water pipes with insulation helps reduce the amount of time waiting for hot water and the total amount consumed.

10 Automatic dishwashers use about 12 gallons of water every time you run them. To make full use of those gallons, don't run the dishwasher half full.

11 When you wash by hand, fill the sink with hot water instead of leaving the water running. After the dishes are clean, a quick rinse should remove the soap film.

12 Diluting your dish soap with water reduces the amount of rinse required to remove the soap and saves money on dish soap as well.

13 Washing machines can use 40 gallons of water per load. Save up for full loads or adjust the machine for a smaller load. Fuller loads place less strain on fabrics and your clothes will last longer.

14 Newer washing machines use less water and electricity. If your washing machine is more than 15 years old, you probably will save money by replacing it with a more efficient model.

15 Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator or use ice instead of running the tap until the water is cold.

16 Here's another hint: don't wash fruits and vegetables under running water. Fill a bowl with water and wash them in the bowl. You can recycle that water by using it to water your plants.

17 When eating out, remember every glass of water brought to your table requires another two to wash and rinse the glass. Help save 26 million gallons of water a day by only requesting water if you intend to drink it.





18 Use a bucket and rinse using a hose with a shutoff nozzle when washing your cars. You'll save hundreds of gallons of water.

19 Use a pool cover to keep the water clean and reduce evaporation. Recycle the water for use on lawn or garden.

20 Try the concept of Xeriscape (Zer-i-scape) which means "landscaping for water conservation". The idea is to use drought tolerant plants which require less water.

21 Minimize the grass areas in your yard, because less grass means less water demand. And let the grass you have grow longer so that less water evaporates.

22 Don't water until plants need it. When a plant begins to show signs of wilting in the morning it needs water.

23 Deep soak each time you water. Watering deeply and infrequently creates a healthy root system that is better equipped to withstand heat and drought.

24 Stop watering whenever runoff occurs, especially on slopes.

25 Use watering cans, whenever possible, especially when watering just a few patio plants.

26 Capture and recycle rainwater by placing barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts.

27 Water early in the morning, when temperatures are mild and winds are calm, so less water will be lost through evaporation.

28 Don't water if rain is in the forecast.

29 Check hose connections for leaks and repair them quickly. Even a tiny leak can waste thousands of gallons of water.

30 Adjust your sprinklers so water is aimed directly at plants rather than sidewalks, paths, driveways or fences and use sprinklers that emit large droplets.



31 Install drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses in flower and vegetable gardens, around trees and shrubs, even in containers. All newly planted plants need more water than they will later in their lives. Even plants billed as drought tolerant need special treatment their first summer.

32 A few inches of mulch greatly slows evaporation from soil.

33 Create windbreaks, especially around vegetable gardens, to shelter plants and prevent drying.

34 Keep weeds out of flower and vegetable gardens. Weeds are notorious for stealing water away from other plants, so if you'll keep their populations in check, you won't have to water as often.

35 Use a broom instead of a water hose to clear debris from patios, driveways and sidewalks.

Conserving water doesn't require a major change in lifestyle. It's mostly a matter of using good common sense. Think about water, and when you do, think about conserving it.

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Water Has No Substitute... Conserve It!



Water Saving Tips from the
Kauai Department of Water