

Household Hints & Tips

Lets all be water wise in our homes

San Francisco Chronicle article – July 29, 2022

In the Kitchen – Water Savings

SF Chronicle Article , July 29, 2022

- **“Wash fruits and vegetables in a sink or bowl** filled with water instead of letting the water run.
- According to the [U.S. Geological Survey](#), washing and rinsing pots by hand can use anywhere between 9 and 27 gallons of water. To increase your efficiency, fill the sink or a basin as you would when washing fruits and vegetables.
- Use the **garbage disposal** only when necessary. The disposal requires at least an estimated 2 gallons of running water per use, so switching it off can save up to 50 to 150 gallons a month.
- **Composting** is a great alternative.
- **Run the dishwasher only when it’s full.** Newer models do not require prerinsing dishes by hand and are more efficient than hand washing, consuming 6 gallons of water or less per load, USGS data shows. When buying a dishwasher, select one with a “light-wash” option.
- Keep a container of **drinking water** in the refrigerator rather than running tap water for a cool drink. “

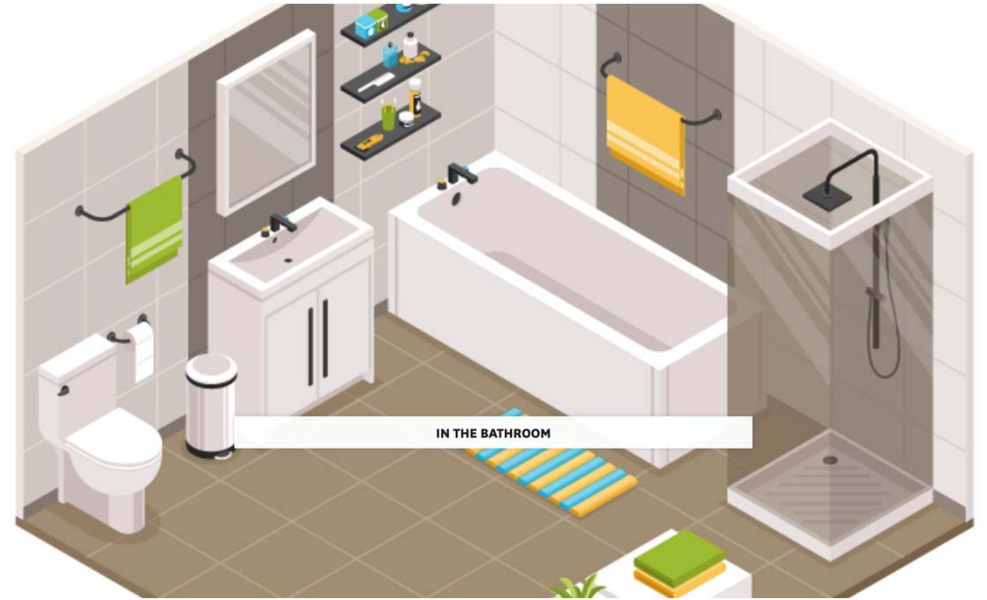


IN THE KITCHEN

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/water-conservation-california/?sid=61e070db62f01e5b4f0bfe14>

In the Bathroom – water saving measures

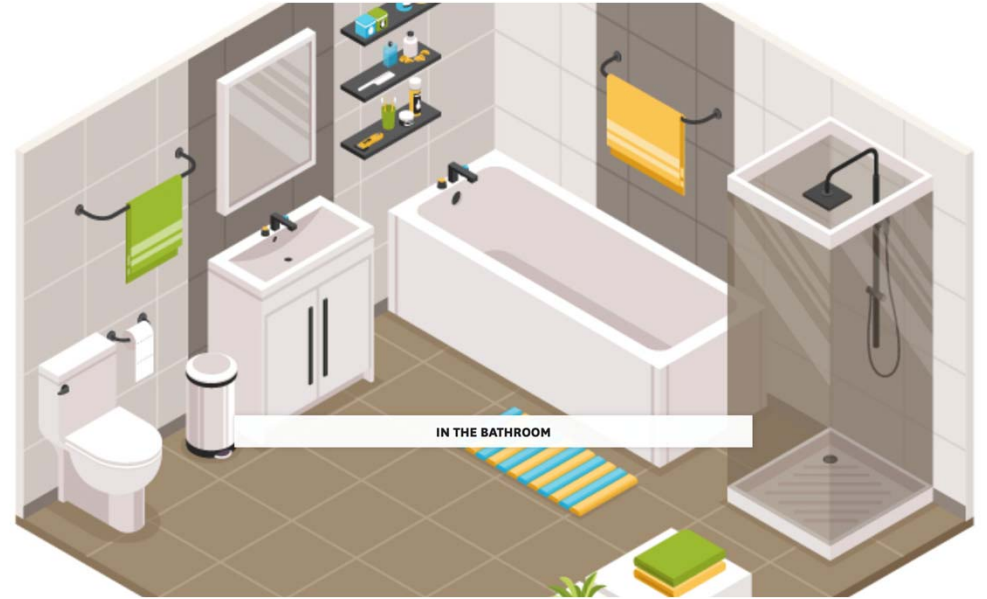
- **Repair leaky toilets.** To check for silent leaks: Put about 10 drops of food coloring in the tank; do not flush. If colored water appears in the bowl 15 minutes later, the toilet's rubber flapper valve is leaking.
- **Replace it with a new one** — your local hardware store can help you choose the proper replacement.
- **Flapper valves** do not last forever, so periodically check for deterioration over time. Or — even better — invest in a high-efficiency toilet, which can save 6 to 35 gallons of water per day.
- **Fixing a leaky faucet** that drips once per second can save up to 3,000 gallons per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. When brushing teeth, shaving or soaping up, turn off the water.



IN THE BATHROOM

In the Bathroom (continued)

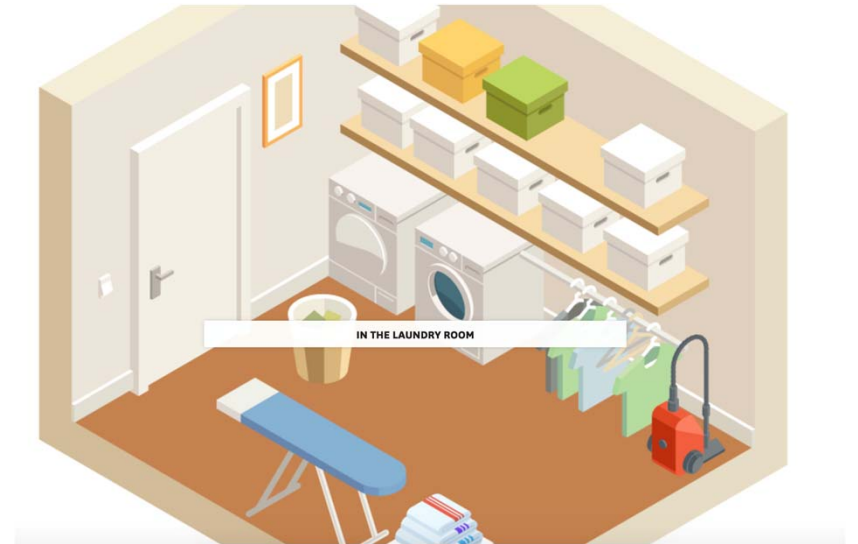
- Take **short showers** instead of baths.
Install faucet aerators.
- Replacing an older **shower head** with a newer, water-saving model can cut water use from 5 gallons per minute to 2, according to the USGS.



IN THE BATHROOM

In the Laundry Room

- **Run full loads of laundry** rather than many small loads. Skip the extra rinse cycle. If you do need to run a small load, use your washer's "small load" option, which will use less water.
- When purchasing a **new washing machine**, upgrade to a water-saving model that adjusts to load size. A full-size [Energy Star-certified](#) washer uses 13 gallons of water per load, compared with the 23 gallons for a standard machine, and cut down on electricity usage. But not all Energy Star washers are equal: Front-loading washers are required to meet a higher standard for water efficiency than top-loading washers.
- Wash towels and clothes only when they really need it.



IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM