

# 10 | WATER CONSUMPTION

# EDMONTON'S GREEN HOME GUIDE

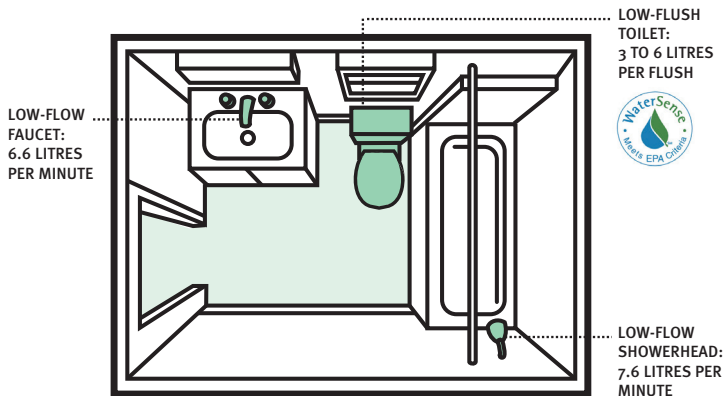
## Water Conservation = Cost Conservation

Simple, low-cost water conserving fixtures can reduce your water consumption and water bills significantly. They also reduce your energy costs by lowering the amount of water that needs to be heated. By switching to energy-efficient and water-wise low-flow fixtures and appliances, the average Edmonton homeowner could save over \$300 a year. Learn more at: [epcor.com/efficiency-conservation/inside-your-home/Pages/inside.aspx](http://epcor.com/efficiency-conservation/inside-your-home/Pages/inside.aspx)

## Efficient Fixtures Make for Effective Future

In 2008, the City adopted a Water Efficient Fixtures Bylaw, requiring that all new homes and permitted residential renovations be installed with low-flush toilets (maximum 6 litres per flush), low-flow showerheads (maximum 9.5 litres per minute) and low-flow faucets (maximum 8.3 litres per minute). Reducing water consumption is a good practice that lessens the pressures on the North Saskatchewan River. Also, water treatment requires energy and produces greenhouse gases, so reducing water usage contributes to climate change mitigation.

## Be Water-Wise: What to Look for in Household Products

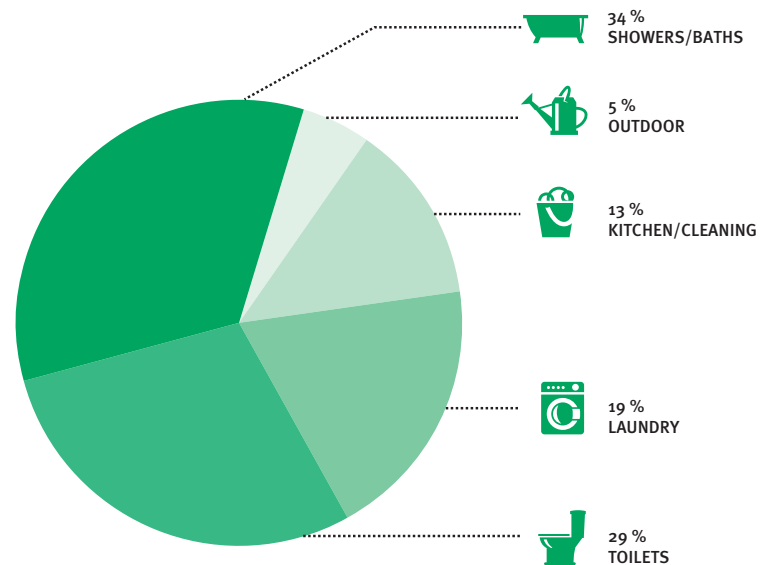


WaterSense is a labeling program that aims to decrease indoor and outdoor water use through water-efficient products and simple water-saving practices. Look for the WaterSense label to find products which have been independently certified by a third-party licensed body to save water without sacrificing performance or quality.

## Edmonton Water Usage: The Numbers

An average single-family Edmonton household has 2.4 people, consumes 18.5 cubic metres (18,500 litres) per month, uses 230 litres per person per day for indoor and outdoor use and pays about \$26 per month for water, not including fixed fees or sewage charges. (Source: EPCOR.) And contrary to what some believe, the performance of low-flow fixtures can be just as high as less water-efficient fixtures. (So you won't have to run around in the shower to get wet!) The average family can save about \$89 and reduce personal greenhouse gas emissions by 56 kilograms per year by using low-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

## Edmonton Water Consumption



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**MORE WATER CONSERVATION TIPS AT EPCOR**

EPCOR provides great tips on how to reduce your water use and save money at: [epcor.com/efficiency-conservation/Pages/efficiency-conservation.aspx](http://epcor.com/efficiency-conservation/Pages/efficiency-conservation.aspx)





## GREEN FACTS AND TIPS: WATER CONSERVATION

### Toilets

Older-model toilets use 20 litres per flush. Replacing your existing toilet with a new low-flush toilet reduces water use between 30% (down from 13 litres to 4.8 litres) and 75% (down from 20 litres to 4.8 litres) per flush, depending on your existing unit. Dual-flush toilets (3 and 6 litres per flush) are even more efficient.

### Low-Flow Showerheads and Faucets

Low-flow showerheads (7.6 litres per minute) and bathroom faucets (6.6 litres per minute) are commonly available, can be comparable in cost and can reduce demand between 15 to 20% more than standard fixtures.

### Faucet Aerators

Using faucet aerators on old, inefficient faucets can save up to 40% of the water used for hand washing. Leaky faucets can waste up to 13,000 litres of water per year per household.

### Kitchen Fixtures and Appliances

As in the bathroom, low-flow faucets can be used in the kitchen. ENERGY STAR dishwashers are at least 25% more water efficient than standard dishwashers and can save up to 20% on water heating costs by heating incoming water. To reduce energy consumption, don't use the heat-dry setting.

### Kitchen Garburator

Try to avoid using a kitchen garburator, since it consumes energy and water every time you flip the switch. Putting food waste down the sink increases the load on city sewage systems and treatment plants. When you put your waste in the garbage, it makes its way to Edmonton's waste management facility, where food scraps are properly managed at the compost facility. Better still, you could build or buy a backyard composter to deal with your food waste.

### Washing Machines

ENERGY STAR high-efficiency (HE) clothes washers use 60% less energy and 35 to 45% less water than regular clothes washers. These washers extract more water from clothes during the spin cycle, reducing drying time, which saves energy and wear and tear on your clothes. In addition, most use a smaller amount of detergent than older models of top-loading machines, saving you even more. Additional tips for a more efficient laundry room include washing in cold water, conducting routine maintenance on your machines and using clotheslines and drying racks. See the **High-Efficiency Appliances** section for more details.

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