

Mr. Rooter's

Water Saving Guide

There's A Reason They Call Us Mr.™

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P L U M B I N G

Mr. Rooter's Favorites



- #1 Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- #2 When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- #3 If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- #4 To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
- #5 While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
- #6 When backflushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
- #7 For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- #8 Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent using the garbage disposal.
- #9 When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant.
- #10 Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line. Check with your city codes, and if it isn't allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.
- #11 Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.
- #12 When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.
- #13 Look for products bearing the EPA Water-Sense Label for items that been certified to save 20% or more without sacrificing performance.
- #14 Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
- #15 If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- #16 Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- #17 Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
- #18 Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- #19 Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- #20 Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.



#21 Plant with finished compost to add water-holding and nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil. It holds water longer.

#22 Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground.

Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.

#23 Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.

#24 Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.

#25 One more way to get eight glasses of water a day is to re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.

#26 If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

#27 We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.

#28 If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.

#29 Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.

#30 When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.

#31 Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.

#32 Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.

#32 Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.

#33 Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.

#33 Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

#34 Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

#35 Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.

#36 Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.

#37 Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.

#38 Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.

#39 For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.

#40 Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

Get 10 more tips included in Mr. Rooter's Daily Tips for June 3, 2012. www.mrrootermia.com

Mr. Rooter is the most referred plumber in the Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio areas. There's a reason they call him Mr. 1-877-ROOTER-2