



Do It Yourself! Household Water Assessment



Are you a waterwise household? Get answers with this household water assessment. Measure your water efficiency, identify silent toilet leaks, calculate irrigation times, and learn how to save water. A little time spent now can add up to big savings for years to come. Let's get started!

How Much Water Do You Use?

What you need: Recent water bill and a calculator

Steps:

1. Locate gallons of water used on your water bill. If the amount is in ccf, L or m³, use these conversions:
 $ccf \times 748 = \text{gallons}$
 $L \times 0.264 = \text{gallons}$
 $m^3 \times 264 = \text{gallons}$
2. Next, note the number of days in your bill cycle.
3. To calculate your daily household use, divide your gallons by the number of days in your billing cycle.
4. Divide your household use by the number of people in your home for your household water use per person per day.

For Example ...

12,000	Monthly Gallons Used
$\div 30$	Days in Bill Cycle
= 150	Household Use
$\div 4$	Household Members
= 50	Daily Household Use per Person (Gallons)

Time to Measure Up

Now that you know your use, let's see how you compare to our metro area.

Less than 50 gallons/day (winter and summer)	Efficient	You are water wise! Share your techniques with others to make every drop count.
51-60 gallons/day (winter) 51-70 gallons/day (summer)	Average	Your use is on par with north Georgia users. Consider some small steps to increase savings.
Greater than 61 gallons/day (winter) Greater than 71 gallons/day (summer)	Inefficient	Too much water is being used or wasted. Check for leaks and take steps to conserve.

Toilet Leaks: Silent & Costly

One of the fastest ways to save water is to find and fix leaks. Dripping showerheads and faucets may be obvious, but toilet leaks often quietly waste water.



What you need: Food dye or leak tablets

1. Put a couple of drops of food color or dye tablets in the tank. The toilet tank is the rectangular box on the back. The lid lifts off without tools.
2. Don't flush and wait 10 minutes.
3. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak.
(Be sure to flush immediately to avoid staining the tank.)

Now what?

In many cases, toilet leaks are caused by faulty toilet flappers, which are easy to replace yourself or by a licensed plumber. If you do-it-yourself, take the old flapper to the store to match it to a new one.

Manage Outdoor Water Use

Let's figure out how much time your irrigation system needs to water 1 inch. From there, you can determine timing and the number of cycles required for a healthy, waterwise landscape.

What you need: Catch containers (cylinders like rinsed tuna cans work well), ruler, calculator, pen and paper

Steps:

1. Place the empty cylinders in a grid pattern about 5 to 8 feet apart within each irrigation zone.
2. Run the zones for 15 minutes.
3. Afterward, use a ruler to measure the water depth in each container. Average the results by taking the total amount of water in all containers and dividing it by the number of containers.
4. Finally, take the average and multiply it by four to calculate the amount of water used in an hour.

Now what?

Reset sprinklers using your calculations.

New plants need 1 inch of water per week.

Established plants need as little as 1 inch every two to three weeks.

Use short cycles of six to 10 minutes to achieve total run time. For example, if 1 inch is needed over an hour, set your system for six 10-minute cycles or 10 six-minute cycles. This allows for better soil absorption and reduced runoff.

Install a WaterSense irrigation controller to help manage your watering schedules.



Everything You Do
Makes a Difference!



For ways to save, visit
northgeorgiawater.org.