

GO BLUE Tips for Reducing Water at Home

It's easy for Canadians to use GO BLUE tips at home and make a few simple changes. The bathroom represents 65 per cent of home water use – 35 per cent for showers and baths, and 30 per cent for toilet flushing. The balance is made up of laundry (20%), kitchen and drinking (10%) and cleaning (5%).ⁱ In the summer, lawn watering can account for up to 50 percent of home water use.ⁱⁱ Here are some helpful tips for incorporating water saving measures into your daily routine:

GO BLUE Tips for the Bathroom

- The average 15-minute shower uses more than 300 litres of water. Challenge your family to cut their shower time in half. A family of four could save up to 1,200 bathtubs of water a year.
- Install a low-flow showerhead and your family could save more than an average swimming pool full of water a year.
- Fix leaky taps. One drop per second wastes about 10,000 litres a year.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Turn off the tap while teeth brushing and save up to eight litres of water a minute.

GO BLUE Tips for the Kitchen

- Washing half loads wastes water. Conserve water by waiting until the dishwasher is full before running it. Save up to 10,000 litres of water a year. Use the short cycle. Or install a high-efficiency model to further reduce your water use.
- The average faucet flows at a rate of about eight litres of water a minute. Don't let the water run while you're cleaning fruits and vegetables. Wash them in a partially filled sink instead. Saves five litres of water each time.
- Install a low-flow faucet aerator which adds air to your water stream and can reduce your water consumption as much as 50 per cent.

GO BLUE tips for the Laundry Room

- Doing many small loads of laundry wastes water. By washing only full loads, the average family could save 2,000 L of water a month.
- Adjust the water level on your washing machine to match the size of the load to save even more water.
- Install a high-efficiency washing machine and save almost 96 litres of water per load.
- Use the suds-saving feature on your washing machine if you have one to recycle the rinse water from the last load.

GO BLUE tips for the Yard

- Turn off the hose and use a rain barrel. When using a hose, be sure your hose has an automatic shutoff nozzle to ensure water is not wasted when the hose is left unattended.
- As a general rule, your lawn requires only two to three cm of water per week.ⁱⁱ
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn, not sidewalks and driveways.

For more easy, at-home water saving tips visit GOBLUE.org

ⁱ Health Canada. Making a Difference: A Departmental Guidebook on Pollution Prevention for Health Canada and Agency Employees. Accessed on April 14, 2008.
http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/collection_2007/hc-sc/H21-269-2006E.pdf

ⁱⁱ Environment Canada. Water Conservation Tips. Accessed on March 6, 2008.
http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/info/pubs/brochure/e_IWDWW3.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ Pollution Probe. Drinking Water Policies and Problems. Accessed on April 11, 2008.
<http://www.pollutionprobe.org/Publications/chap6-end.pdf>. page 68.