



*This month's tips, "Use Water Wisely", has never had a more urgent meaning for you than it does today!*

*For the last 25 years, Visalia's population has grown by 84% and yet our City water consumption rose by only 24%. During this period, the available ground water level dropped dramatically from 45 feet to 143 ft. Some answers may include longer hotter summers, reduced snowpack, and increased fire seasons. Many answers fall within our daily water use.*

*It is up to all of us to protect every drop of water possible. Here is just a small list of ideas to help get you started on your search to "Use Water Wisely". As you learn of other ways that fit your lifestyle, you may want to connect with your friends and family to join forces to save gallons.*

**Consume Less – Eliminating leaks today will save thousands of gallons of water. Join the "Fix A Leak Week",  
March 15-21, to conserve Visalia's water.**

Toilets, our biggest user of household water, can daily leak upwards of 30 gallons a day, which is over 9,500 gallons in a year. (To check your toilet for leaks, put a drop of coloring in the tank, wait for 10 minutes without flushing, and check for bowl water to change color.) A leaky faucet with 1 drip per second can waste 3,000 gallons per year; a shower head leaking 10 drops per minute annually wastes 500 gallons.

**Consume Better – Save big on your water bill and impress your neighbors by installing low-water-use landscape.**

Reduce the use of chemicals which kill the microbes and earthworms that keep your soil alive. Nourish your soil with organics and compost to increase water retention. Consider planting drought tolerant plants and ground cover such as super drought-tolerant kurapia or myoporum parviflorum dwarf variety as your "green front lawn". Keep the backyard lawn where kids play to help maintain a cooler patio area. For more ideas on low water use landscaping click [here](https://www.visalia.city/depts/administration/water_conservation/local_low_water_use_garden_examples.asp).  
([https://www.visalia.city/depts/administration/water\\_conservation/local\\_low\\_water\\_use\\_garden\\_examples.asp](https://www.visalia.city/depts/administration/water_conservation/local_low_water_use_garden_examples.asp))

**Systemic Change – By turning off the water each time you brush your teeth (brushing twice daily) or when washing hands, you could save 4 gallons of household water.**

If all 138,000 residents of Visalia did the same thing, we can daily save 552,000 gallons of water, equivalent to the water needed to fill 29 average sized swimming pools. Request Cal Water's free conservation kit to reduce water usage on faucets and showerheads. Details [here](https://www.calwater.com/conservation/conservation-kits/)  
(<https://www.calwater.com/conservation/conservation-kits/>)

**Carbon and Water Footprint - Do you know your water footprint? Consider taking steps now to reduce yours?**

Daily, each person uses about 80-100 gallons for indoor use. However, your water footprint includes so much more; the resources needed to deliver, treat, and dispose of the wastewater, plus the water needed to produce the items you use or wear, and consume or purchase daily in meals, products, and services. For one month the average American's water footprint would fill 4 average size swimming pools.