

# TOP 3 ACTIONS FOR SAVING WATER



WARM Training Center  
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*Promoting Sustainable,  
Affordable Communities  
Since 1981*

## 1. STOP LEAKS

**FIRST** - Check for leaks that aren't obvious by doing this test:

- a. Turn off all water sources, inside and out
- b. Read your water meter
- c. Come back 3 hours later – if the meter has changed, there's a leak.



Also, put food coloring in the back tank of each toilet. Check back an hour later. If any color has “bled” into the toilet bowl, then the toilet is leaking water.

**SECOND** - Repair leaks. If you are unsure where to start, come to one of WARM's free Basic Plumbing Repair classes or go to your public library for books on plumbing repair.

A leaky toilet can waste 30 – 500 gallons per day (\$75 - \$1240 a year) and a leaky faucet 6-100 gallons a day (\$15 - \$250 a year).

## 2. REPLACE OLD WATER FIXTURES

**TOILETS** - If you have an old toilet (from before 1992), consider replacing it. Switching to a 1.6 gallon toilet could save \$120 a year. You can find inexpensive toilets at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore on Greenfield Rd.



**SHOWERHEAD** – For \$15 you can replace an older shower head with a more efficient (2.5 gpm, gallons per minute) showerhead. This could save \$115 a year.

**FAUCETS** – For \$2 you can buy a faucet aerator that can reduce faucet water usage in half if your faucet doesn't currently have one. This could save \$115 a year.

## 3. TURN IT OFF WHEN NOT USING IT

Don't leave water running unattended.

When washing dishes, taking a shower, brushing teeth or washing your hands don't leave the water running – only turn it on when actively using it. Just doing this when brushing your teeth can save \$60 a year for a family of four (200 gallons a week).



Note that Detroit's water system is considered less expensive than most large city systems and rates as one of the cleanest in the country. Call them at 313-964-9090.

Dollar amounts are based on rates in the city of Detroit of \$51.75 / 1000 cubic feet (7500 gallons).  
Expected savings are based on typical water use for an American family of four. Usage rates gathered from h2ouse.