

Water Conservation

On the average, every American uses about 100 gallons of water a day. That makes daily consumption in the U.S. alone over 372 billion gallons. San Antonio is no different. Since our city is growing and relies heavily on the Edwards Aquifer to receive our drinking water, that makes us especially mindful about conserving water. Water we save is water that we don't have to buy. So it's important we do everything we can to decrease our water consumption. A toilet, for instance, is the fixture that uses the most water daily in an average household, usually around 26%. Old toilets can use from 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush. Low flow toilets used in new construction or sold at the hardware store today are 1.6 gallon capacity. This gets the job done just as well, but with less water.

Did you know that a five-minute bath uses more water than a five-minute shower? Baths can use up to 50 gallons of water whereas a shower with a low flow showerhead would only use 10 gallons. Low flow showerheads can save over 2 gallons per minute. Outdoor usage accounts for about 60% of San Antonio's water use during the summertime. Watering the lawn, washing the car and spraying off the sidewalk shouldn't be as important as having enough water to drink. We should all put voluntary restrictions on our water usage around the house. But in times of drought, additional water restrictions are needed to ensure that the aquifer remains at a safe level.

