



Sustainable Water Use Practices, Why?

In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers, and local watersheds. Conserving water also prevents greenhouse gas emissions associated with treating and distributing water.

Conserving water can also extend the life of the community sewer system by minimizing the need for expensive expansions. In some communities, costly sewage system expansions have been avoided by implementing a community-wide household water conservation.

Being that Babcock Ranch is the most sustainable community in the U.S., water conservation is paramount. On average in the State of Florida, the per capita daily withdrawal of public supply water is 134 gallons total and 85 gallons per day for residential withdrawals. That's 5,500 gallons per month per household. The Babcock Ranch Community water usage is 3,900 gallons per household per month. That's over 19,000 gallons of water savings annually. With that good news, our usage per household is trending slightly upward (See Figure 1). The question is how can we reverse the trend. Below are some tips that you and your family can do to conserve our precious and most valuable resource.

Faucets and Sinks

Fit Household Faucets with Aerators

This easy and effective home water conservation method is also the cheapest! A simple low-flow aerator saves water in the bathroom, while a swiveling aerator can serve multiple purposes in the kitchen

Turn Off the Water After You Wet Your Toothbrush

There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Rinse Your Razor in the Sink

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

Minimize Use of Kitchen Sink Garbage Disposal Units

In-sink 'garburators' require a lot of water to operate properly and also considerably add to the volume of solids in a septic tank, which can lead to maintenance problems. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste.

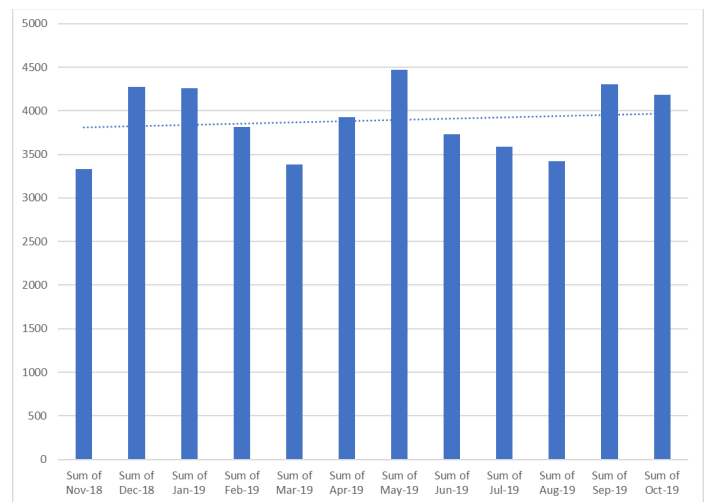


Figure 1: Babcock Ranch Average Monthly Total Gallons Used per Household

Opt for the Dishwasher Over Hand Washing

It may seem counterintuitive, but it turns out washing dishes by hand uses a lot more water than running the dishwasher, even more so if you have a water-conserving model. The EPA estimates an efficient dishwasher uses half as much water, saving close to 5,000 gallons each year.

When Washing Dishes by Hand, Don't Leave the Water Running for Rinsing

If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.

Don't Let the Faucet Run While You Clean Vegetables

Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Use a dual-setting aerator.

Keep a Glass Bottle of Tap Water in the Fridge

Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Instead, try storing a container full in the refrigerator.

Leaks

Check Faucets and Pipes for Leaks

A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Some faucet leaks are easily spotted, but others take a little more effort to locate. Dry sinks and tubs thoroughly and allow them to sit for an hour. If you notice wetness, you've found a leak. To find leaks from faucet handles, dry the area around them before running water. You'll see water collecting next to them if there's a leak.

<https://www.babcockranchliving.com/DocumentCenter/View/170/Toilet-Leak-Test---Form-9-PDF>

Check Your Toilets for Leaks

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

<https://www.babcockranchliving.com/DocumentCenter/View/170/Toilet-Leak-Test---Form-9-PDF>

Use Your Water Meter to Check for Hidden Water Leaks

Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read the same, there is a leak.

<https://www.babcockranchliving.com/DocumentCenter/View/168/Reading-Your-Meter---Form-7-PDF>

Outside conservation

Don't Run the Hose While Washing Your Car

Clean the car using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose only for rinsing; this simple practice can save as much as 100 gallons when washing a car. Use a spray nozzle when rinsing for more efficient use of water. Better yet, use a waterless car washing system; there are several brands, such as Eco Touch, which are now on the market.

Use a Broom, Not a Hose, to Clean Driveways and Sidewalks

Blasting leaves or stains off your walkways with water is one way to remove them, but brushing with a broom to first loosen the dirt and grime will decrease your water use and save you time in the long run.

Cover Swimming Pools to Reduce Evaporation

Swimming pools can lose an inch or more of water each week to evaporation. Temperature, humidity, and wind can all affect how quickly water evaporates. To save thousands of gallons of pool water each season, get a cover for your pool.

Check for Leaks in Pipes, Hoses, Faucets and Couplings

Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

*From: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/45-ways-to- conserve-water-in-the-home-and-yard/>

*Note: Adapted from eartheasy.com website.