

Bathroom and kitchen faucets account for 16 percent of the water used in an American home. In a typical house, faucets run for around 8 minutes a day and consume nearly 11 gallons of water per person per day. Reducing faucet water use and repairing leaks is an easy way to save water and money around the house!

How much water does my faucet use?

Prior to 1994, faucets used between 2.75 and 7.0 gallons per minute (gpm). Today, federal requirements state that residential bathroom and kitchen faucets have a maximum flow rate of 2.2 gpm, and non-residential public restrooms of 0.5 gpm. Faucets are often fitted with a device called an aerator that screws onto the end of the faucet. They are designed to mix air with water and produce a more full flow.

To determine your faucet flow rate, start by checking the side of your current aerator where it is often stamped into the side of the metal. If it's not there, order a free home water audit kit from the Portland Water Bureau* to determine your faucet flow rate. The actual flow rates may be different than what is stated on the aerator due to debris, high or low water pressure, and damage.

Retrofit Your Faucet

One of the easiest ways to save water and money with your faucet is to install a water-efficient aerator. Bathroom faucet aerators that flow between 0.5 to 1.0 gpm are generally adequate for hand washing. Kitchen faucets may require a higher flow rate such as 1.5 to 2.0 gpm to fill a sink or spray food off of dishes. Reducing the flow can increase the wait time for hot water.



Typical bathroom (left) and kitchen (right) faucet aerator.

* Portland Water Bureau customers can request a free home water audit kit or water conservation devices like faucet aerators by calling (503) 823-4527 or visiting: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/efficiency

Install a WaterSense fixture

If it's time for you to replace a new bathroom or kitchen faucet, consider buying a WaterSense approved faucet fixture.



WaterSense is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's product labeling program for quality, water-efficient products. Learn more about the program by going to: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>

Repair your leaky faucet

Is your faucet dripping? If the answer is yes, you may be wasting a lot of water. For example, a faucet that leaks at one drip per second can waste over 8 gallons of water per day, or around 2,900 gallons per year.

In some cases, the repair can be relatively simple, such as replacing a worn washer. Learn more about diagnosing a faucet leak and how to make minor repairs with the Portland Water Bureau's brochure "Yes! You can Fix a Leaky Faucet!".



To get a copy call (503) 823-4527 or download it at:

www.portlandoregon.gov/water/efficiency

Easy Faucet Water Conservation Tips

- Turn the bathroom faucet off while brushing your teeth.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink or a pan with soapy water instead of letting the faucet run while soaping dishes. Rinse dishes in a filled sink or a pan of water.