



About the RBC Blue Water Project

The RBC Blue Water Project is an innovative, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. We have committed to provide \$50 million in charitable grants to not-for-profit organizations. Since 2007, RBC has pledged over \$28 million to more than 400 not-for-profit organizations worldwide that protect watersheds or ensure access to clean drinking water. We're also promoting responsible water use with our employees and clients, reducing the intensity of our own water footprint and encouraging the growth of water businesses in North America.

Water Saving Tips

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Install a low-flush toilet. It takes 5-7 gallons of water every time you flush a regular toilet, and a low-flow will let you save 40-50% of the total water usage in your home.

Place a weighted plastic bottle filled with water in the water tank of your toilet to reduce your water usage by about 20 per cent.

Take shorter showers and consider using a water-saving showerhead.

Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth instead of running it continuously. Use the tap for rinsing and short bursts of water for cleaning your brush. (This saves about 80 per cent of the water normally used.)

Purchase a water-saving clothes washer.

Use a rain barrel to collect rooftop runoff, and use that water for lawn and garden watering, car washing, and window cleaning.

Promptly repair any leaks or drips in and around your taps. (One leak can waste several thousand litres of water per year.)

When hand-washing dishes, never run water continuously. Wash dishes in a partially filled sink and then rinse them using the spray attachment on your tap.

Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load, on the shortest cycle possible.

Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator instead of running your tap until the water gets cool. Rinse the container and renew the water every two to three days.

Water your garden every three to five days, rather than for a short period every day.

Water during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening.

Do not water on windy days.

Do not over-water in anticipation of a shortage. Soil cannot store extra water.

Do not leave sprinklers running all day.

Let your grass grow. Taller grass (6.5 centimeters) holds water better, and a healthy lawn will choke out weeds.

Water your grass when it starts to develop a black tinge along the top. Green grass doesn't need water.

Use drought-tolerant plants.

General Water Facts

Leaving a tap running for 5 minutes takes the same amount of energy as leaving a light bulb on for 14 hours.

You save more water taking a shower than a bath.

It takes less water to run a fully loaded dishwasher than it does to hand wash all of those dishes.

You use about two gallons of water to brush your teeth.

Every time you flush a toilet, you use 5-7 gallons of clean fresh water

One drop of oil can render up to 25 litres of water unfit for drinking

Three-fourths of household water is used to flush the toilet and take baths and showers.

It takes 9 gallons of water to produce one can of fruit. It takes 1500 gallons of water to produce one barrel of beer. It takes 11,000 litres of water to produce one hamburger

Leaks can be costly. A leak of only one drop per second wastes about 10,000 litres of water per year.

More than 50% of water applied to lawns is lost to evaporation or run-off due to overwatering

Women in developing countries walk an average of 3.7 miles to get water

46% of all the people on earth do not have water piped to their homes

70% of the world's freshwater is used for agriculture. Businesses use about 20% and individuals use about 10%

With approximately 8 per cent of its territory covered by lakes, Canada has more lake area than any other country in the world

In the past several years, 25 per cent of Canadian municipalities have experienced water shortages.

One-third of Canadians depend on groundwater as their fresh water source - yet little is still known nationwide about its quality and quantity.