



## 2008 Summer Water Conservation Initiative

### Every Drop Counts

## How Much Water Do You Use?

The average American uses between 100 and 200 gallons of water per day. By using this home water audit, you can determine the areas where you use water most and identify ways that you and your family can save our most precious natural resource. We also recommend that you have a home inspection from a professional plumbing contractor to determine if there are problems with your existing systems and to discuss the results of your self-audit.

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association represents some of the most respected professionals in the construction industry. As the nation's premier trade association for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors, PHCC members can recommend practical water-saving strategies that meet the needs of your family.

The first step is yours to take. Please complete the survey below so that the plumbing professional that visits can help you determine how you can best save water. There are many simple ways to cut down on water consumption. There are also products available that can further reduce water use, save you money and may qualify for a tax credit.

**1. Get a copy of your water bill to estimate the water use per person in your household.**

Gallons Used	÷	# of Days in Billing cycle	=	Average Daily Consumption	÷	# of People In the Home	=	Average Use Per Person	
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**2. Determine how water is being used within your household.**

Water Use	Uses Per Week	x	Gallons per Use	=	Total gallons Per Week
Showers: <i>Est. 3 gal. per min.</i>					
Baths: <i>Est. 36 gal. per full bath/18 per half bath</i>					
Toilets: <i>Ave. # per person is 4 x day Est. 2 – 5 gal. per flush</i>					
Brushing Teeth: <i>Est. 3 gal. per minute</i>					
Washing Hands: <i>Est. 3 gal. per minute</i>					
Dishwasher: <i>Est. 15-20 gal. per cycle</i>					
Laundry: <i>Est. 30-60 gallons per load</i>					
Misc. Indoor Use: <i>Est. 10 gal. per day per person</i>					

**Estimate the total gallons used per month.**

Gallons Used Per Week	÷	7 Days	=	Gallons Used Daily	x	Days in the Month	=	Average Gallons Used Per month	
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**3. Estimate the total gallons used outside your home per month.**

Minutes per day	x	# per Week	=	Minutes Per Week	÷	60	=	Watering Hours Per Week	
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*Be sure to consider all outside uses: garden/lawn watering, washing cars, filling pools, etc. Using a garden hose or irrigation system (depending on type) can use up to 250 gallons per hour*

**Estimate gallons used per week**

Watering Hours Per Week	x	250	=	Gallons Per Week
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**(To estimate your average outside usage per month, multiply this answer by 4.)**

