

“A Conversation with Greenable Woodbridge”... Conserving Our Inside Use of Water

Welcome back.

This week, Greenable Woodbridge is going to talk about how water is used inside the home, and how we can go about conserving our “inside” use of water.

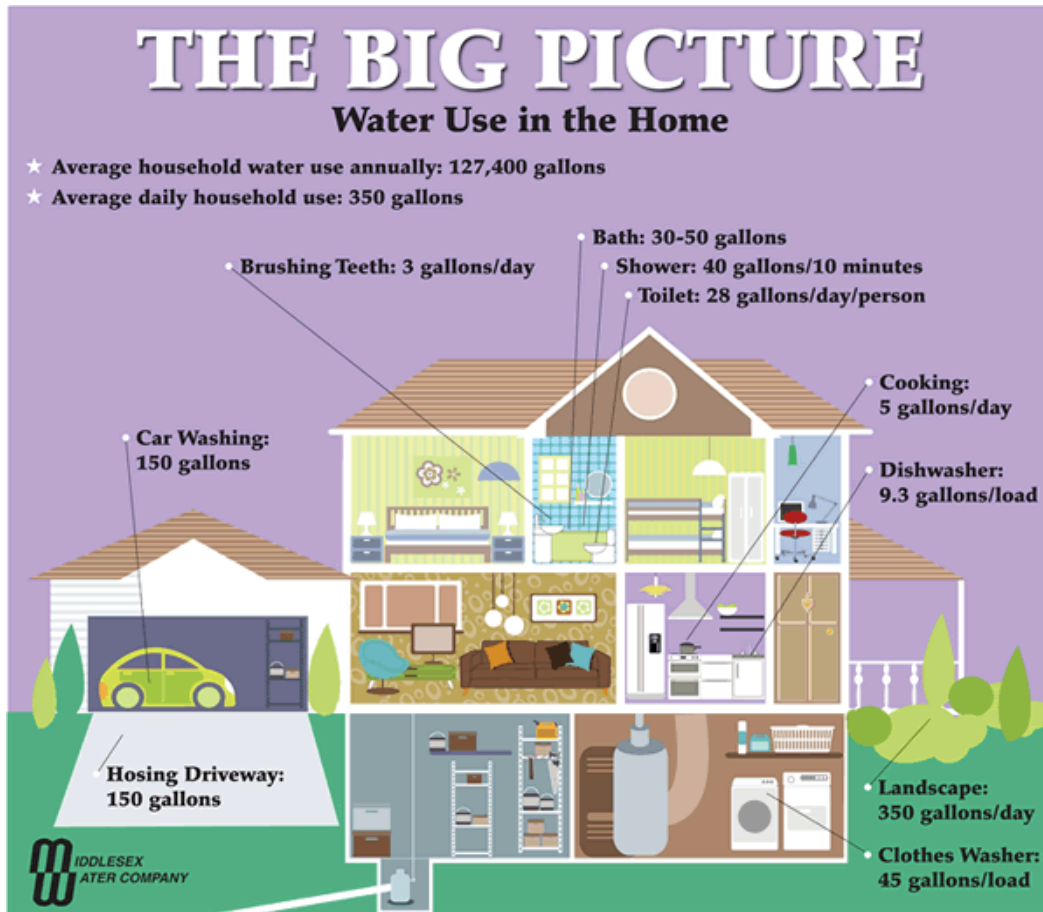


Photo from Middlesex Water Company

As you can see from this image supplied by Middlesex Water Company, the average daily household water use is 350 gallons. If you missed it last week, take a moment to explore the **Water Footprint Calculator** so you can get an estimate of your water use. The question is how do we cut back? The uses of water Greenable Woodbridge will talk about here are things that have to be done – and, there’s no doubt about that. No one is suggesting we stop brushing our teeth, or doing laundry, or bathing, or cooking. What we need to talk about is how we can change the way we do these things in order to cut back.

Let’s start in the bathroom. As the room is aptly named, consider taking baths instead of showering. Replacing a single shower with a bath can save you about 15-20 gallons of water each time. Even if you just replace a single shower a week with a bath, that can save you just over 1,000 gallons of water a year. If you cannot take a bath instead of a shower, shorten the length of your shower. Reducing the time you spend in the shower with the water running by just one or two minutes can save you up to nearly 8,500 gallons of water a year. At the sink, make sure you do not leave the water running nonstop. Turning the water off while shaving can save about 1,000 gallons of water a year, and turning it off while brushing your teeth can save up to 11,680 gallons of water a year.

Changing how you use the faucet is also applicable in the kitchen for similar savings, whether when washing hands, cleaning vegetables, or doing dishes by hand. If you use a dishwasher, make sure you only run it when it is full to save nearly 3,000 gallons of water per year. Also, by using the spray hose device on a kitchen sink instead of the faucet, you can save anywhere from 20 to 500 gallons of water a month.

In the laundry room make sure that it is always full loads of laundry going into the washer, and to adjust the appropriate water level, to save up to 10,500 gallons a year.

In all areas of your house, make sure you are using highly efficient appliances and fixtures to save even more.

By following these guidelines, you could save up to 167,000 gallons of water in your household over the course of a year. Next week, Greenable Woodbridge will look at outside water use.

For more information check out these links:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserves.htm>

<http://www.middlesexwater.com/customer-care/water-conservation-tips>