



Home Sustainable Water Use Checklist

A Quick and Easy Water Audit Tool for the Home

DIRECTIONS:

Water is a precious resource; the supply is not inexhaustible. A sustainable home uses a minimum amount of water. This booklet will guide you in decreasing the amount of water used in your home. Add your points in all sections to determine your home's overall sustainability in terms of water use. Use the list to identify other actions you could take to decrease water use and improve your score.

Then, go to our website at www.worldgreen.org/points to report your points and receive recognition for your actions. Questions? Contact sustainability@leonardoacademy.org

WATER CHECKLIST: TOTAL 300 POINTS

AROUND THE HOUSE:

___ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ When taking a bath, plug the drain in the tub before turning on the water.
Usually (5 pts.) Sometimes (2 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Or, to save hot water, take a 4-5 minutes shower instead of a bath.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Periodically check for leaking faucets and pipes and get them fixed as soon as possible.
Usually (30 pts.) Sometimes (10 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Instead of using running water to wash fruits and vegetables, try filling your sink partway with water and washing them in it.
Usually (5 pts.) Sometimes (2 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Eat a few vegetarian meals every week, as meat takes lots of water to raise and produce.
Usually (15 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use a refillable water bottle, canteen, or thermos instead of purchasing bottled water.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use your dishwasher and washing machine for full loads only.
Usually (15 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use large water-hogging appliances such as the washing machine and dishwasher during off-peak hours (i.e., between 8pm and 8am) to reduce municipal wastewater treatment plant loads.
Usually (15 pts.) Sometimes (5 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Put a bucket in the shower and use the excess water it collects to water your plants.
Usually (5 pts.) Sometimes (2 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Compost your food scraps instead of using the garbage disposal, which uses large amounts of water.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

LAWN AND GARDEN:

___ Install rain barrels at downspouts and use rainwater to water the yard.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Use drip irrigation instead of regular sprinklers to gardens, grass, and flower beds.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Water in the evenings or mornings to reduce evaporation and allow more water directly to the plants.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Put a layer of mulch around plants and trees to reduce moisture evaporation and cut down on watering.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Sweep off your driveway and sidewalks instead of spraying them with a hose.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Raise the blade on your lawn mower. A higher cut shades the roots and allows them to hold more moisture, reducing the need for watering.
Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

ALTERNATIVE PURCHASING:

___ Purchase products made from recycled paper, as they require much less water to manufacture.
Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (6 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Install a low water (1 gallon per flush or less) toilet.

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (6 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Install a low flow showerhead (6 gallon per minute or less).

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (6 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Fit faucets with low flow aerators (1.6 gallon per minute or less).

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (6 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

___ Purchase a front loading washing machine which uses much less water than a top loading machine

Usually (20 pts.) Sometimes (6 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

ADDITIONAL MEASURES:

___ Reuse linens and towels during your hotel stays to reduce water consumption.

Usually (10 pts.) Sometimes (3 pts.) Seldom (0 pts.)

HOW DO YOU RATE?

200 and over = Gold

100 – 199 = Silver

50 – 99 = Bronze

20 – 49 = You are making an effort but can do more

Under 20 points = You can definitely do more with no-cost actions

Remember, not only can you help conserve our water supply by wise use of the resource, you can also protect it from pollution by careful use of lawn fertilizers and other measures.