

GoBlue.org

THE SUMMER OF

go blue



Our fresh water is precious. We need it for everything we do - drinking and cooking, growing our food and preserving our way of life. The mission of Go Blue™ is to inspire Canadians to cut their water use in half and help us spread the word about water conservation. Read on for easy tips to help you reduce your family's consumption of this precious resource.



Go Blue tips in the Bathroom

- The average 15-minute shower uses about 300 L of water. Challenge your family to cut their shower time in half. One family of four could save up to 1,200 bathtubs of water a year.
- Fix leaky taps. One drop per second wastes about 10,000 L of water per year.
- Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth and save up to 8 L of water a minute.
- Make sure you don't have leaky toilets – they can waste as much as 200 L of water every day. Place a few drops of food colouring into the water in the toilet tank. If the coloured water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking and should be repaired.
- Adapt your existing toilet by installing water-saving devices or replacing it with an ultra-low-volume toilet. If everyone in Canada installed a low-flush toilet, we'd save about 25,000 Olympic swimming pools of water annually.

Go Blue tips in the Kitchen

- Washing half loads in the dishwasher wastes water. Conserve water by waiting until the dishwasher is full before running it. Use the short cycle or install a high-efficiency dishwasher to further reduce your water use.
- Don't run the water while you're cleaning fruits and vegetables. Wash them in a partially filled sink instead. Save 5 L of water each time.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for a cold glass of water.

Go Blue tips in the Laundry Room

- Doing many small loads of laundry wastes water. By washing only full loads, the average family could save 2,000 L of water a month.
- Adjust the water level on your washing machine to match the size of the load to save even more water.
- Install a high-efficiency washing machine and save almost 96 L of water per load.
- Use the suds-saving feature on your washing machine, if you have one, to recycle the rinse water from the last load.

Go Blue tips in the Yard

- Lawn clippings are over 50 per cent water. Leaving them on your lawn enables you to use less water and fertilizer and produces less runoff.
- To avoid water loss due to evaporation, water only during the cool part of the day – in the morning or evening. Do not water on windy days.
- If you have a swimming pool, use a cover to reduce water loss due to evaporation and check your system regularly for leaks.
- Use compost, grass and mulch on garden beds to prevent evaporation.