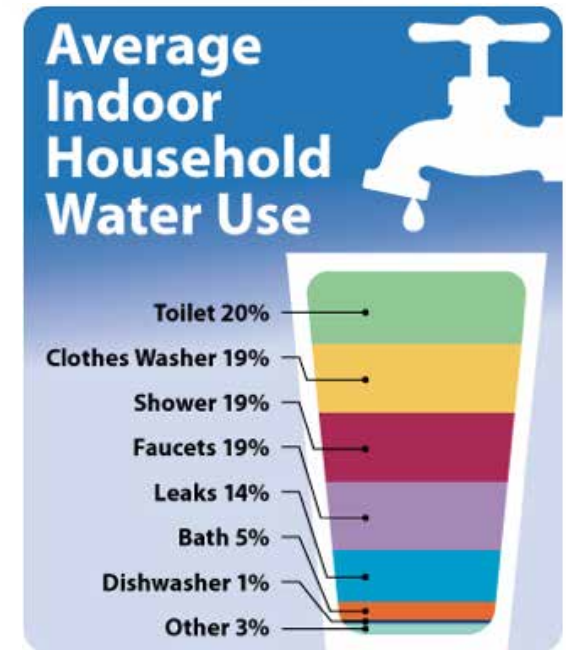
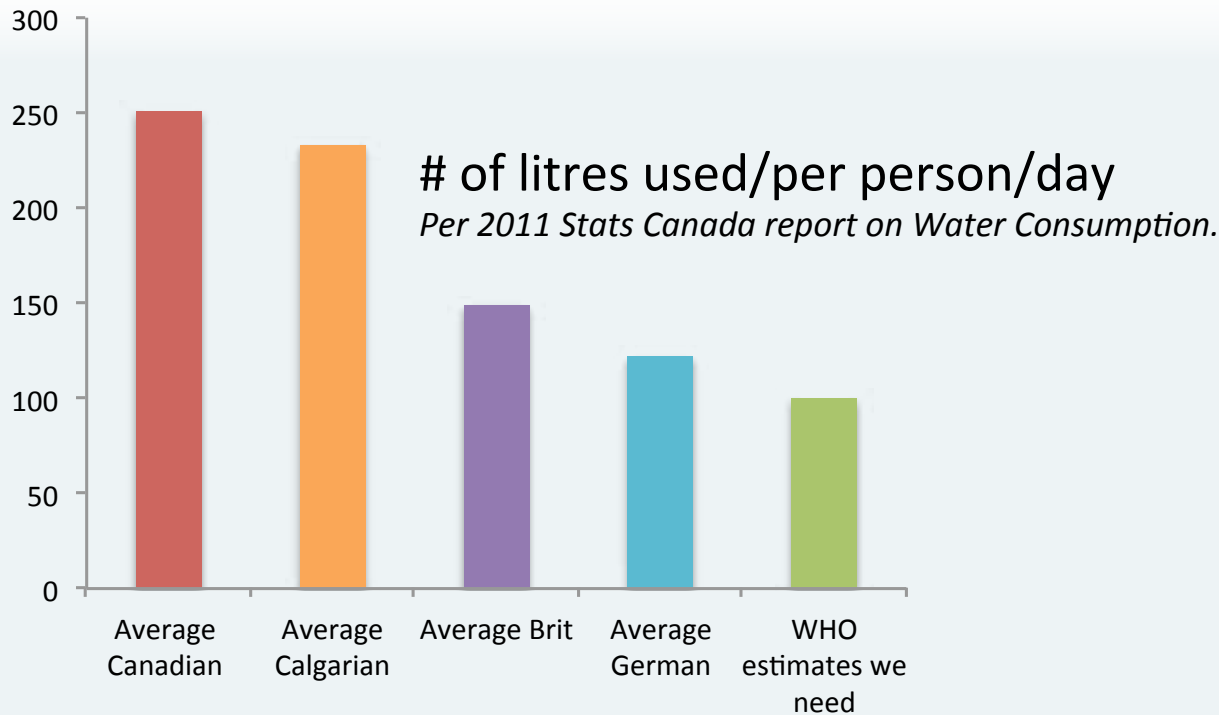


Water Conservation Tip Sheet

? Did You Know?

The average Calgarian uses 231 litres of water per day¹? That's the equivalent of two full bathtubs of water – every day! Water is a major limiting factor to our quality of life (and growth) in Calgary and as our city is semi-arid, with a relatively small supply of water, it is important that we learn to conserve both indoors and out. By using water efficient appliances and fixtures, and incorporating a number of simple behaviour changes into our lives, it is possible to cut water use significantly.




Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Indoors

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.

1. Calgary's water demand. (2014). Retrieved October 16, 2014 from <http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/Water/Pages/Water-conservation/Calgarys-water-demand.aspx>

Water Conservation Tip Sheet

 Take action! conserve water both indoors and outdoors to conserve this precious resource.

> No Cost

- Call the City's 3-1-1 number and request to have a water meter installed. The vast majority of people see significant savings on their water bill after having installed a water meter.
- Store a pitcher of water in the fridge to keep drinking water cool instead of letting the water run to get to the right temperature.
- Fill the sink half way with warm water to wash numerous dishes instead of letting the water run.
- If using an automatic dishwasher, wash full loads of dishes to save water and energy.
- Wash full loads of laundry. If you must wash a small load, set the water-level accordingly.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face.
- Try to limit the amount of time you spend in the shower, so as not to waste water.
- Direct stormwater runoff into areas of your yard where it can be absorbed into the ground (lawn or gardens).
- Water your lawn with only 1 inch of water per week (including rain and hand watering).
- Water your lawn and gardens early in the morning or later in the evening to avoid water evaporation and plant scalding.
- Leave grass 3" long to prevent scorching and water evaporation.
- Grass-cycle (i.e. leave your grass clippings on the lawn, thus recycling the nutrients and moisture back into the soil).

> Low Cost

- Consider installing a low-flow (<2.0gpm) hose-style showerhead or additional low-flow standard shower heads.
- If not able to replace high flow toilets immediately, displace water in tank with plastic bottles, glass jars or a toilet tank bag. Do not use bricks, as they can cause problems with the plumbing.
- Fix leaky toilets. Replace the flapper on the toilet and recheck for the leak to ensure it has been fixed (this can be done by placing a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank; wait five minutes; if the dye has bled into the bowl the leak is still present; if not, it has been fixed).
- Use a rain barrel or multiple rain barrels (an average roof in Calgary comes in contact with approximately 54,000 litres of water annually – this could fill a rain barrel 270 times!).

> Investment

- Consider replacing dishwashers 10 years or older with an Energy Star rated model.
- Consider replacing your top-load washing machine with an Energy Star front-loading washing machine.
- Upgrade toilets to dual flush or low flow (<4.8 L/flush) models (City of Calgary has \$50 rebate per toilet).
- Consider replacing unnecessary lawn with drought-tolerant and locally adapted plants, shrubs and trees.

Want to learn more about what the City of Calgary is doing to help all of us better manage our water resources? Check out www.calgary.ca/Water-Conservation.aspx

www.greencalgary.org

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