



‘Save the Source’ Water Audit

Provided by the Chicago Conservation Corps (C3)



Use this worksheet to keep track of the number of times you use water and in which way for a full day by filling out the “**number of times**” column. Then, at the end of the day, multiply the number of times by the “**average amount of water for the activity**.” Write the answer in the “**total water used**” column, then add that column up to get an estimate of how much water you use in a day. Please note that this is not comprehensive or the only way; feel free to modify this worksheet to fit your needs. Have fun, be creative and get your family or roommates involved in monitoring.

See www.h2ouse.org for useful information about typical water consumption figures and the best ways to conserve water.

Activity	# of Times (✓)						Average Amount of Water for this Activity (liters)	Total Water Used (liters)
Washing face or hands (water running)							7.5	
Washing face or hands (water off)							4	
Flushing toilet (standard flow toilet)							20	
Flushing toilet (low-flow toilet)							5.5	
Taking a shower (standard head)	# of minutes:						7.5/minute	
Taking a shower (low-flow)	# of minutes:						4/minute	
Taking a bath							150	
Shaving (water running)							7.5	
Shaving (water turned off)							4	
Brushing teeth (with water running)							7.5	
Brushing teeth (with water turned off)							1	
Getting a drink (from a fountain)							1	
Getting a drink (in a glass)							0.25	
Cooking a meal							10	
Washing dishes by hand (water running)							110	
Washing dishes by hand (water off)							40	
Washing dishes (with a dishwasher)							55	
Doing a load of laundry							110	
Other:							Estimate:	
TOTAL:								

Wrap-up

How many gallons of water did you use on this day? How many gallons would you estimate you use in a week? In a year?

Are any toilets or faucets leaking? (Do a dye test of your toilet if you're not sure.)

How can you start conserving water today? Long-term?



Water Resources in Chicago

Water Conservation and Storm Water Management

- **City of Chicago Department of Environment Resources.** Available at <http://www.cityofchicago.org/Environment> or by request from your liaison. Click on "Water" under "Initiatives and Programs." Website includes:
 - Water Conservation Tips (including a PDF of the "Save the Source" brochure)
 - Information on Rain Barrels
 - Water Quality and Stormwater Management Tips (including PDFs of the "Guide to Stormwater Best Management Practices in Chicago," "Rain Garden Brochure," and "Guide to Disconnecting Your Downspout")
- **City of Chicago Department of Water Management.** <http://www.cityofchicago.org/watermanagement>.
- **H2Ouse.** A comprehensive website about saving water, from the California Urban Water Conservation Council <http://www.h2ouse.org>
- **Water Conservation Tips.** From Mono Lake, California: <http://www.monolake.org/socalwater/wctips.htm>

Lake Michigan

- **Alliance for the Great Lakes.** <http://www.greatlakes.org/>. One of C3's partners, the Alliance works to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource through policy, education and local efforts.
- **Great Lakes Information Network.** <http://www.great-lakes.net/>. An intergovernmental partnership that provides one place online for people to find information relating to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region of North America.
- **The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book.** From the EPA. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/>.
- **Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.** <http://www.glrc.us/>. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) is a wide-ranging, cooperative effort to design and implement a strategy for the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes.

Chicago River

- **Friends of the Chicago River.** <http://chicagoriver.org>. A C3 partner dedicated to restoring the river's health.
- **Chicago River.** Complete history of the Chicago River from the online *Encyclopedia of Chicago*: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/263.html>

Top 10 Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Fix leaky faucets and toilets.

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak.

Make sure the toilet flapper does not stick open after flushing.

Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when full.

Limit your shower to under five minutes.

Install low-volume toilets. Or, if your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a bottle filled with water in your toilet tank.

Install a low-flow showerhead.

Turn the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.

Use leftover drinking water to water your houseplants.

Rinse dishes in a sink-full instead of with the tap. Use a dishwasher if you have one, which actually uses less water than washing dishes by hand.

Top 5 Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Use a rain barrel to water your plants.

Sweep your sidewalk instead of using a hose.

Plant native plants that require less water than traditional landscaping.

Water your lawn less frequently, only during dry spells and in the early morning.

When washing your car, use a bucket and sponge, or take it to a car-wash that recycles their water.

