

## Inside the Home

### Faucets, Pipes, and Showerheads

- Create a family water usage checklist to identify areas where you can reduce your family's water usage.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Repair or replace as necessary.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.



### Sinks, Showers, Tubs, and Appliances

- Run your dishwasher and washing machines only when they have full loads, or adjust water levels for smaller loads.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Try only filling the tub half full.
- Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain and then adjusting the temperature as the tub fills.
- Refrigerate drinking water instead of letting a faucet flow until the water is cold.
- Collect water wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach the faucet or showerhead and use it to water your plants.

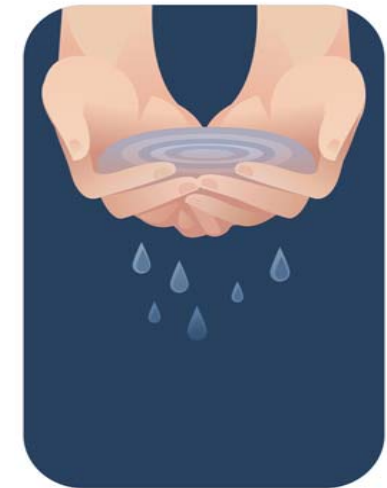
## Links for Additional Information

### Websites

For additional information on the below-listed topics, visit the following organizations' websites:

- **Building a rain garden:**  
*The Native Plant Society of New Jersey*  
[http://www.npsnj.org/references/NPSNJ%20Rain%20Garden%20Manual%20\(Pages%201-24\).pdf](http://www.npsnj.org/references/NPSNJ%20Rain%20Garden%20Manual%20(Pages%201-24).pdf) and  
[http://www.npsnj.org/references/NPSNJ%20Rain%20Garden%20Manual%20\(Pages%201-24\).pdf](http://www.npsnj.org/references/NPSNJ%20Rain%20Garden%20Manual%20(Pages%201-24).pdf)
- **Creating an Energy-Efficient Landscape**  
*U.S. Department of Energy*  
See the booklet [Landscaping for Energy Efficiency](#), available at  
<http://www.eere.energy.gov>
- **Turning Your Yard Into a Wildlife Habitat**  
*National Wildlife Federation*  
<http://www.nwf.org/backyard/>  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's GreenScapes*  
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrrr/greenescapes/index.htm>
- **Learning More About Native Plants**  
*Plant Conservation Alliance*  
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/>

## How You Can Save Water Inside and Outside Your Home



**Tips**  
from the  
Berkeley Heights, NJ  
Environmental  
Commission's  
**Water Usage  
Committee**

## Front and Back Yards



Reduce pesticide use and use the least toxic method for weed control.

### Watering Systems

- Reduce your energy usage by reducing your watering system usage. Energy is used to deliver water.
- Adjust sprinkler systems so that only targeted areas are watered, so the house, sidewalk, and street are not watered.
- Shut off automatic watering systems when it rains or install a rain shut-off device.
- Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about 6 inches apart so that water will reach the roots, rather than run off the surface.
- Collect and use rain water for watering your landscape. Hook up rain barrels directly to your downspouts.
- Equip swimming pools, fountains, ponds and other ornamental water features with re-circulating pumps.

### Hoses

- Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly. Repair leaks as needed.
- Install an automatic shut-off nozzle on all hoses.
- Rather than hosing off driveways, steps, and sidewalks, use a broom.

### Fertilizers and Power Equipment

- Reduce your use of gas-powered equipment to maintain lawns and gardens. This equipment generates large amounts of carbon dioxide emissions, and therefore is not eco-friendly.
- Minimize or eliminate your use of nitrogen fertilizers and synthetic fertilizers.
- Use compost and mulch produced by garden trimmings as an alternative to synthetic fertilizers.

*The biggest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions from home lawn care is associated with the use of nitrogen fertilizers. Synthetic fertilizers are extremely energy intensive to manufacture and release nitrous oxide, which has 300x more global warming potential per molecule than carbon dioxide. For additional information on how to reduce your carbon footprint on your property, visit the following website:*

*National Wildlife Federation,  
<http://www.nwf.org/gardenersguide>*

### Evaporation and Runoff Reduction

- Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system that delivers water directly to plants' roots.
- Water during the early morning hours or at night when temperatures are cooler, rather than in the middle of the day.
- Reduce evaporation by using a 2 – 3 inch layer of organic mulch around plants. This will save hundreds of gallons of water per year.
- Reduce evaporation by using covers on swimming pools and spas.
- Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly. Repair leaks as needed.



### Plants and Turf Alternatives

- Create a rain garden.
- Group plants according to their water needs.
- Grow plants native to this area.
- Plant low-maintenance native trees and shrubs to maximize carbon capture.
- Replace your strictly grass lawn. Trees, shrubs, ground covers, flowerbeds, and naturalized meadows are more eco-friendly.