

# Water Conservation

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# Water is a resource we need.



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Source: [High\\_desert\\_scrub\\_southeast\\_Arizona\\_DP61.jpg](#) at [ecolibrary.org](#)



Source: <http://trendupdates.com/poor-countries-oblivious-to-climate-change/>



Image from the Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank  
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Minnesota depends on rain and snowfall for our water.

# The Wellstone preserves water in the yards:

- Plants that do well in Minnesota are used in the landscaping
- Rain gardens around the building keep rain water from running off too fast
- The gardens help to clean the water before it eventually goes to the Mississippi River



# What residents said about water conservation:

## I try to save water because:

*“Coming from Africa, I know the importance of water; water is a treasure”*

*“A lot of people in this world do not have enough water”*

*“I am grateful to God to have it and Islam religion tells us we have to be green, have to use it wisely”*

*“Someone has to pay”*

# Is water from the faucet safe to drink?



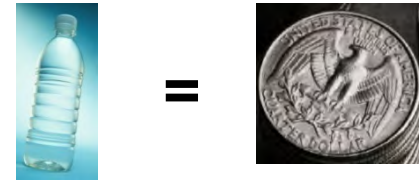
- Minneapolis' water comes from the Mississippi River
- The water is cleaned and filtered
- 500 tests are done each day to be sure it is safe
- Fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay
- Minneapolis produces 57 million gallons of safe water per day— enough to fill the Lake of the Isles in about four days

# How much does water cost?

One gallon of tap water costs a penny



One bottle of water from the store costs a quarter

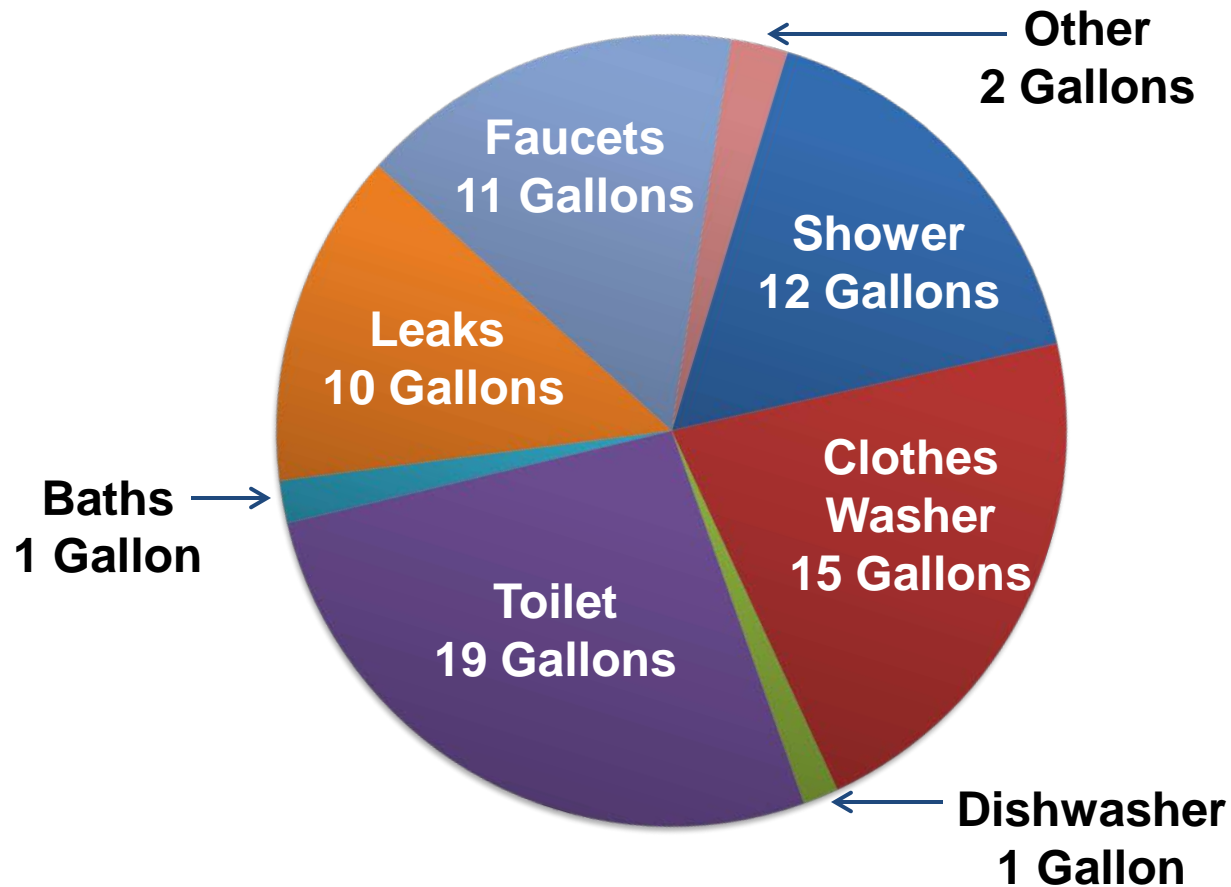


Four bottles equal one gallon and cost 1 dollar from the store



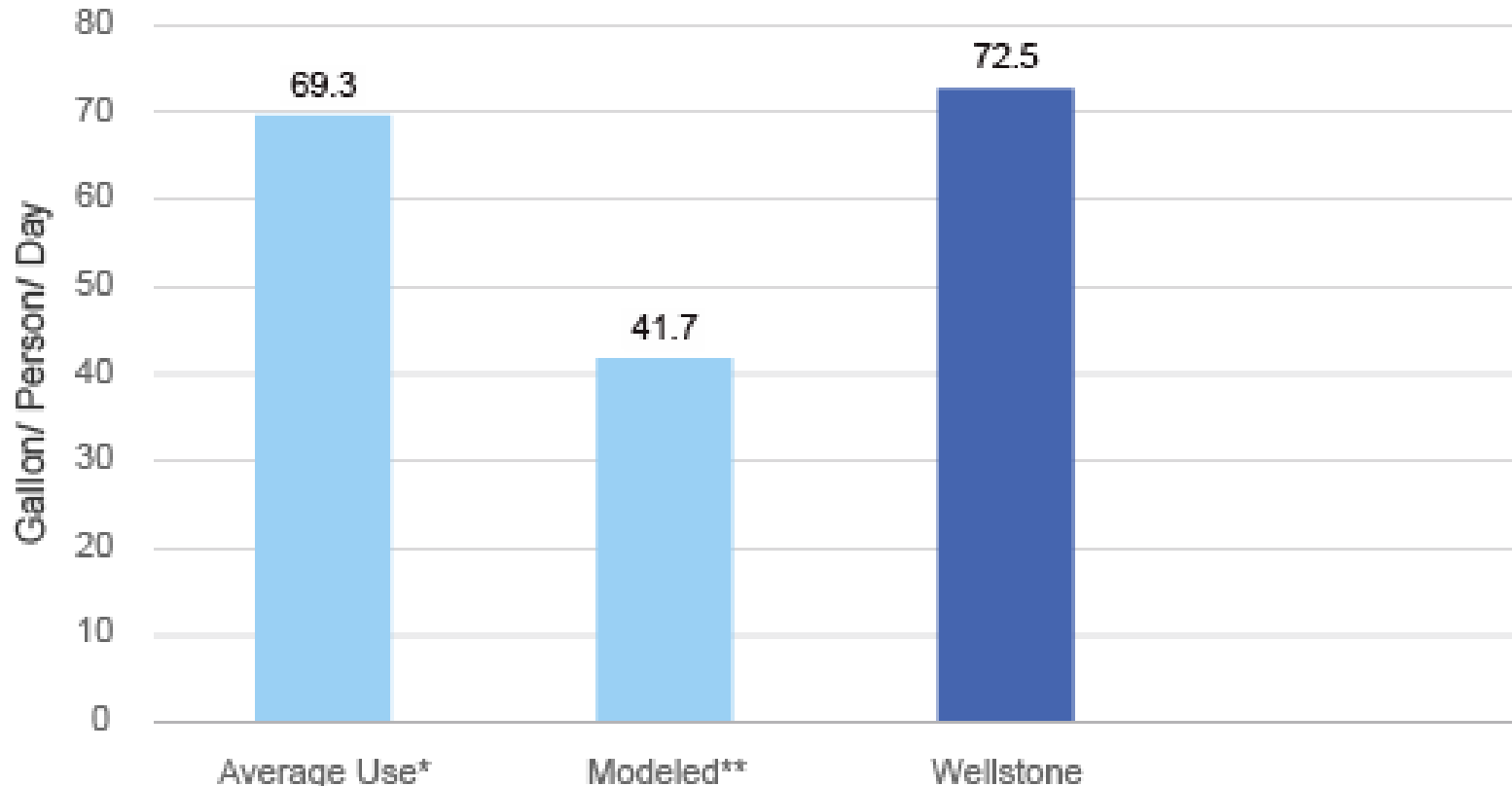
# How much water is used on average?

One person each day = 69 Gallons



Source: American Water Works Association, *Drinktap.org* 2010 & *Handbook of Water Use and Conservation*

# How much water is used at the Wellstone?



\* Average indoor water consumption - 69.3 gal/ person/ day

Based on AWWA's [drinktap.org](http://drinktap.org) project, which uses figures from the Handbook of Water Use and Conservation by Amy Vickers, Waterplow Press, 2001.

\*\* Modeled indoor water consumption based on AWWA, EPA, and "The Handbook of Water Use and Conservation" fixture and use data.



# What is WaterSense?

**WaterSense -  
a label indicating a product meets  
EPA water efficiency standards**



**WaterSense fixtures are used in the Wellstone:**

- Showerheads = less than 2 gallons per minute
- Faucets = less than 1.5 gallons per minute
- Toilets = 1.28 gallons per flush

# What residents said about how they save water:

## I save water by:

*“I don't let water run down the drain; I watch the kids--they let water run”*

*“I take quick showers”*

*“I recapture water to feed plants”*

*“I do large loads of laundry because it is better that way; I can do it all at one time; I waste less water”*

*“I keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so I have cold water without letting it run at the tap”*

# How much water is used for activities?

## Activity

- One shower of 10 minutes
- One bath with about 4 inches of water
- Wash dishes 4 times by hand with water running
- Use the dishwasher once
- Brush teeth 2 times with water running

## Water used

- 20 gallons 
- 20 gallons 
- 18 gallons 
- 5.7 gallons 
- 4 gallons 

# How can water be saved?

Shower for 10 minutes



A daily load of dishes washed by hand



Brush teeth with water running



Shower for 5 minutes



A daily load of dishes washed in the dishwasher



Turn off water when brushing teeth



# How is water heated at the Wellstone?



Solar panels on the roof

Storage tank is in the basement and a back-up natural gas water heater



# What settings can save water and energy?

Clothes washer



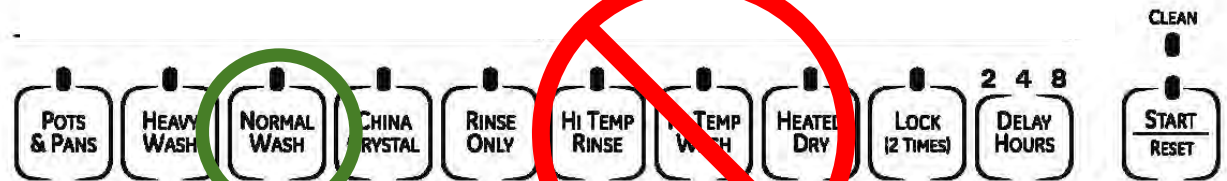
Cold/Cold

Normal size



Dishwasher

Use normal wash setting and no heat settings



# Why is it important to report leaks to property management?

- A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons/day
- A faucet leak of 1 drip/second wastes 5 gallons/day
- Leaks can account for 14% of household water use
- Hot water leaks also waste energy



# Which of these activities might you try to do to save water?

	Often	Sometimes	Never
• Keep shower to 5 minutes or less	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Turn water off when shaving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Turn water off when brushing teeth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• When washing dishes, don't leave water running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Report leaking faucets and toilets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Other? _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



# Finally,

- *Please share something that you learned today that you did not know before.*