



# ASK JEFF

Lake Ecology  
Jeff Keith  
973-663-4230  
[jeffieboy47@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffieboy47@yahoo.com)

## CONSERVING WATER

To continue our discussion on water, I would like to offer some tips on conserving it. We know where it comes from and how much we use, so how much can we save by doing the little things we do every day? These are some suggestions:

**Washing Hands** - We all do it many times a day, especially during Covid. While lathering up, shut the water off. It is estimated we can save at least 2 gallons of water a day by doing this

**Dishwasher**- Only run it when it is full and try NOT to wash plates thoroughly before placing in the washer. Take a napkin or sponge and wipe off all food matter and then place in the washer.

**Brushing teeth** - Try not to leave the faucet running while brushing your teeth. It is a habit but an easy habit to break.

**Low flow shower heads and low flush toilets** - Normal shower heads can use up to six gallons a minute, but there are very effective ones that can use only 1.6 gallons a minute. I have these on all my shower heads, and they still provide a great shower. Cost is about \$15.

Low flow toilets are another way to save a huge amount of water. A standard toilet can use up to 5 gallons of water. Low flow toilets use 1.6 gallons, and they work extremely well. I am not advising you to go out and spend \$300 on a toilet, but when it's time to get a new toilet perhaps you can try the "low flow" models which work very well.

**Saving water while waiting for hot water** - This a little bit of work but it's worth it. You can waste at least 1 gallon of water waiting for the hot water to be ready every time you turn on the water to take a shower or wash your hands. By now you probably think I am a little bit crazy but keep a container near your shower or in the sink and just fill it while waiting. Then that water can be used to water your plants in the house and outside. I know it sounds like work, but it is effective, will help to conserve water and eventually it will become a habit.

Just remember --- the water that is running is potable water that you or someone else can drink. Instead, it is running into the drain and gone. Potable water is precious, and we should respect and conserve it.

I am asking you to try some of these measures to help conserve water. We all can save at least 10 gallons a day by doing these simple practical things.

Thank you and remember "It takes a village" and we all have to do our part to save water and protect our Mother (Earth).