



Think Blue! What can YOU do?

See how many of these suggestions from the City of Portsmouth DPW Water-Stormwater Division you can adopt!

START
HERE



• Use mulch around plants to retain water, repel weeds, moderate temperature and avoid erosion.

• Add a rain barrel to your gutter downspout and use rainwater for watering.
Save 55 gals a day.

• Create a rain garden!
Rain gardens are great ways to improve both your landscape and water quality.

• Wash car at car wash that recycles their water.
Save 100 gals.

• Take the pledge to "Scoop the Poop" at Statesforesutures.org/everdrop/petpledge

• Don't dump waste in storm drains. Dispose of household hazardous waste properly at your town's collection day events.

• Replace your toilet with a new, water-efficient one. Many places, like Portsmouth, offer rebates.
Save 10 gals per day.

• Install low flow showerheads. Take showers instead of baths and keep them under 5 minutes.
Save 50 gals per day.

• Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving and while lathering your hands.
Save 7 gals a day.

• Avoid over fertilization that increases plants' need for water and adds nitrogen to stormwater runoff.

• Run only full loads of laundry. Invest in a high-efficiency washing machine. Many places like Portsmouth offer rebates.
Save 10 gals per day. Save 27 gals per load.

• Run only full loads in the dishwasher.
Save 2,000 gals per year.

• When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with soap and water instead of running the water. Rinse in a basin of clear water.

• Compost. Add organic waste from your kitchen to a compost pile that forms a nutrient-rich soil to add to your garden.

• Skip on your grass. If it's browning back, you don't need to water. Water your yard in the morning or evening to avoid losing water to evaporation.
Save 96 gals.

• Rake it or Leave it. Do not dump leaves or clippings in or near storm drains or water bodies/wetlands. Use leaves as much as compost or collect in a paper bag for proper disposal.

