

Water In Leh: Conservation at home

Water is our most precious resource. We must use it wisely in order to ensure that there will be enough for our children and grandchildren to live healthy and prosperous lives.

Here are some ways you can reduce your water usage in the home:

- When washing dishes or hands, use a plug rather than letting the water run while you lather. You can make one by cutting a tennis ball in half and placing it in the sink hole.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water, then **reuse the water** to feed houseplants.
- Soak **pots and pans** in warm water rather than letting the water run while you clean them.
- Teach children to **turn off taps** tightly after use.
- Only use your **washing machine** when you have a full load.
- If your shower fills a one gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, **replace the shower head** with a cheap, easy to install, AAA-rated water-efficient model.
- Upgrade your washing machine and flush toilet to **water-efficient models**, choose squat loos which use less water, or Ladakhi compost toilets, which use no water.
- Monitor the water level of your storage tank overnight to **see if you have a leak** and ensure broken pipes are properly repaired.
- Adapt your plumbing to **re-route grey water** (water from washing clothes and dishes) to irrigate trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer.
- Angle **sprinklers** properly to ensure you are watering your garden, not the street. Use them in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimise evaporation, spread a layer of organic mulch around the plants to retain moisture, use **drip irrigation** where possible and **check soil moisture** three inches down before watering.

