

## A Conversation With Greenable Woodbridge - Watersense

Many of the ways Greenable Woodbridge has talked about saving water are simple behavioral changes that anyone can do. However, savings in water use can also be achieved by upgrading various appliances and fixtures in and around the house. When upgrading, consider purchasing products that have a WaterSense label:



These labeled products meet criteria set out by the US EPA that shows the product primarily performs as well or better than less efficient counterparts while providing real and measureable water savings by being at least 20 percent more efficient than the average product in a given category.

Examples of products that can be purchased under the WaterSense label, with descriptions taken directly from the **EPA's website**, are the following:

### **Bathroom sink faucet:**

Replacing old, inefficient faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to take 40 showers. Also, since these water savings reduce demands on water heaters, households will also save enough energy to run a hairdryer 10 minutes a day for a year. Achieving these savings can be as easy as twisting on a WaterSense labeled aerator, which can cost as little as a few dollars.

If every home in the United States replaced existing faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models, we could save nearly \$1.2 billion in water and energy costs and 64 billion gallons of water across the country annually - equivalent to the annual household water needs of more than 680,000 American homes.

### **Showerheads:**

The average family could save 2,900 gallons per year by installing WaterSense labeled showerheads. Since these water savings will reduce demands on water heaters, they will also save energy. In fact, the average family could save more than 370 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power a house for 13 days.

On a national scale, if every home in the United States installed WaterSense labeled showerheads, we could save more than \$2.2 billion in water utility bills and more than 260 billion gallons of water annually. In addition, we could avoid about \$2.6 billion in energy costs for heating water.

### **Toilets:**

By replacing old, inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled models, the average family can reduce water used for toilets by 20 to 60 percent—that's nearly 13,000 gallons of water savings for your home every year! They could also save more than \$110 per year in water costs, and \$2,200 over the lifetime of the toilets.

Nationally, if all old, inefficient toilets in the United States were replaced with WaterSense labeled models, we could save 520 billion gallons of water per year, or the amount of water that flows over Niagara Falls in about 12 days.

### **Irrigation Controllers:**

Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually. If every home in the United States with an automatic sprinkler system installed and properly operated a WaterSense labeled controller, we could save \$435 million in water costs and 120 billion gallons of water across the country annually from not overwatering lawns and landscapes. That's equal to the annual household water needs of nearly 1.3 million average

American homes. WaterSense labeled controllers can also be a water-smart solution for larger landscapes, including such as schools, hotels, and office buildings.

To get an idea of how much upgrading your appliances could save you, check out this **Water Savings Calculator** from the EPA.