

Charlottesville Water Conservation  
Shower Better



October was **Energy Action Month** and **Shower Better Month**; however, that doesn't mean you have to stop saving water and energy. You can always find time to take energy, water, and money-saving action in your home by showering better. The shower is a place where we can wake up, wind down, or clean up after a long day.

*The Average American family uses 30 gallons of water per day just for showering.* That's about 1.2 trillion gallons of water every year in the US! It also takes energy to heat the water we use to shower. Replacing a showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model can help the average family shower better by reducing its energy and water costs by more than **\$70 and saving 2,900 gallons of water annually.**

The City of Charlottesville offers **FREE** WaterSense labeled showerheads in the Office of Utility Billing at City Hall. Go pick up yours today and SWITCH & SAVE!

**Follow these tips below to Shower Better ALL YEAR:**

1) **Use a WaterSense labeled showerhead:**

In just one year, a WaterSense labeled showerhead can save the average family the amount of water it takes to wash more than 70 loads of laundry and the amount of electricity used to power its home for 13 days!

For more information about WaterSense labeled showerheads, visit the WaterSense website: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products/showerheads.html>.

Also remember: You can pick up your own WaterSense labeled showerhead at the Office of Utility Billing at Charlottesville City Hall

2) **DIY: Insulate hot water pipes to keep your hot water hot:**

The US Dept. of Energy estimates that insulating your hot water pipes reduces heat loss sufficiently to keep water 2°F–4°F hotter than uninsulated pipes. By not having to wait as long for hot water to reach your sink or shower, you can save water and the amount of energy needed to heat that water.

Insulation wrap for hot water pipes can be bought at many hardware stores, and some brands come with "self seal" (a sticker with glue-like tape along the open edge) to make

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installation easier.

For instructions and a materials shopping list, check out [US Dept of Energy's Energy Saver Project summary](#), and this video from Columbia Water and Light: <https://youtu.be/7D6Gu2kNmNg>

### 3) **DIY: Give your hot water heater a blanket:**

Just like insulating your walls or roof, insulating your hot water tank is an easy and inexpensive way to improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. If your water tank is new, it is likely already insulated. If you have an older hot water tank, check to see if it has insulation with an R-value of at least 24. If not, consider insulating your water tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25%–45% and save you about 4%–9% in water heating costs—and should pay for itself in about a year.

Read more about how to DIY this from the US Department of Energy: <http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/projects/savings-project-insulate-your-water-heater-tank> and watch this video from Columbia Water and Light: <https://youtu.be/flnchtUgXoo>

### 4) **Adopt the 5-Minute Shower Challenge**

Take a 5 minute shower, and save 10 – 25 gallons of water each time you shower! Even shortening your shower by *one minute* can save 550 gallons of water per year.

Tips for taking a shorter shower:

- Use a shower timer  
(contact [waterconservation@charlottesville.org](mailto:waterconservation@charlottesville.org) to get your very own)
- Turn the water off while lathering up with shampoo, conditioner, and soap
- Create a 5 minute playlist to play while you are showering
- Try a 2-in-1 shampoo-conditioner combination
- Take a luke warm or cold shower to encourage getting out faster
- Try a navy shower



**For more information on Energy Action and Shower Better Month:** <http://www.energizecharlottesville.org/showerbetter/>

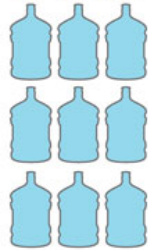
For more information about WaterSense labeled showerheads, [visit the WaterSense website](#).

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Why **waste...**

**2,900**  
GALLONS  
of water



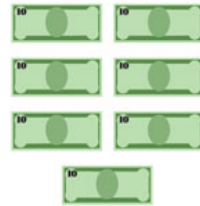
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**13 DAYS**  
of energy to  
power your home



+

**\$70**  
per YEAR



Shower**Better**

