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## With easy alternatives available, tisk tisk to wasting water

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As the drought in Central Texas continues, there are plenty of ways people can do their part to save water, starting at home.

Getting the most out of your water can mean anything from scraping your plates rather than rinsing, to replacing your old toilets with new ones.

One of the most important water conservation standards involves stopping and preventing leaks. A steady faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water each day. Also, adding aerators to faucets can save a gallon a minute.

Low-flow shower heads are another gallon saver. Look for shower heads that use 2.5 gallons each minute or less. Such shower heads are available from the [City of Austin](#).

Older toilets are also water gluttons. Director of sales at Fox Service Company George Stuckey said older toilets use several extra gallons per flush.

"If your home was built prior to 1992 and you haven't done a toilet replacement there's a very good chance you have a real water user in the bathroom," Stuckey said.

Among its other free services, the City of Austin will replace up to three outdated household toilets for free.

Not all water conservation strategies involve new equipment, either. Dean Thompson looks for simple ways to save water and energy at his house.

"There are little things, like not running the dishwasher unless it's full," Thompson said.

The same goes for the washing machine.

It helps to scrape plates before putting them in the dish washer, instead of rinsing them. If you wash your dishes by hand, use a sink full of soapy water instead of running water.

Saving water also means saving money for home owners.

"I'm budget-conscious, so I make sure I'm not spending too much money where I don't need to be," Thompson said.