

# Retrofit

Make the most of what you have

## Toilet

If you would like to reduce the amount of water your toilet uses per flush without replacing it, insert a weighted plastic container into the tank. Do not use bricks as they tend to disintegrate with prolonged water exposure and can damage your toilet. A weighted container (a 2 litre bottle full of water) will displace water and reduce flush volumes.

## Rain Sensor

If you have an automated irrigation system, consider retrofitting it with a rain sensor. These inexpensive products work by shutting off your system if there has been significant rainfall.

## Faucet Aerators

Faucet aerators can be inserted into most faucets and work by partially blocking water flow. If you do install one, remember to clean it every year.

## Helpful Websites

For more information on the Energy Star program [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

To find out where to recycle your old appliances and fixtures, visit the Regional District of Nanaimo recycling database at: [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

For more information on water efficient toilet performance visit: [www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca)



is brought to you by the Regional District of Nanaimo's Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program partners:



Town of Qualicum Beach



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[www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca)



# Efficient Appliances BATHROOM, KITCHEN, AND LAUNDRY



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Working Towards a Sustainable Future

# Thinking Of Replacing Your Appliances?



If you are considering installing new appliances, why not purchase water and energy efficient products? Looking for the energy star symbol will save on both energy and water.

When purchasing any large appliance, you have to take two costs into consideration: the initial purchase cost and the annual operating cost. While efficient models can cost more, most will pay for themselves in yearly operational savings over a one to five year period.

Actual savings for each new appliance depend on the efficiency of your former model, the cost of the new replacement and the price of your water and energy.

For more information on products and brands, visit the websites listed on the back of this handout.

And remember, if you do purchase a new appliance, please recycle your old one.



## In The Washroom

### Dual Flush and High Efficiency Toilets

Toilets consume 30% of household water use. Pre-1985 toilets can use up to 26 litres of water per flush. Dual flush and high efficiency toilets are an easy way to conserve even more water. Dual flush toilets have two buttons, a 3 litre and a 6 litre flush option. High efficiency toilets use no more than 4.8 litres per flush. Dual flush models can save an additional 30% of water used and high efficiency toilets save an additional 20%.

### Efficient Showerhead

A conventional showerhead uses 18 to 27 litres or more per minute, the low-flow type uses approximately 9 to 11 litres per minute, with some models using even less. Replacing a conventional showerhead with a low-flow model is as inexpensive as \$15 and is usually a quick and simple job. A low-flow model, you could save 26,600 litres of water a year! Remember to also take shorter showers to further reduce your water and energy use.



## In The Kitchen & Laundry Room

### Washing Machine

The clothes washer is the second largest water user in the home. Energy Star laundry machines use 50% less energy and 30 - 50% less water to wash your clothes than inefficient models. Some models even offer water reuse features and low water cycles. When purchasing an energy star model, which come in both front and top load washers, look for a water factor below 9.0.

### Dishwasher

Energy Star dishwashers use 25% less energy and smart sensors regulate water use based on load size. With many dishwashers, old and new, 80% of the energy used goes towards heating water, so remember to only wash full loads.