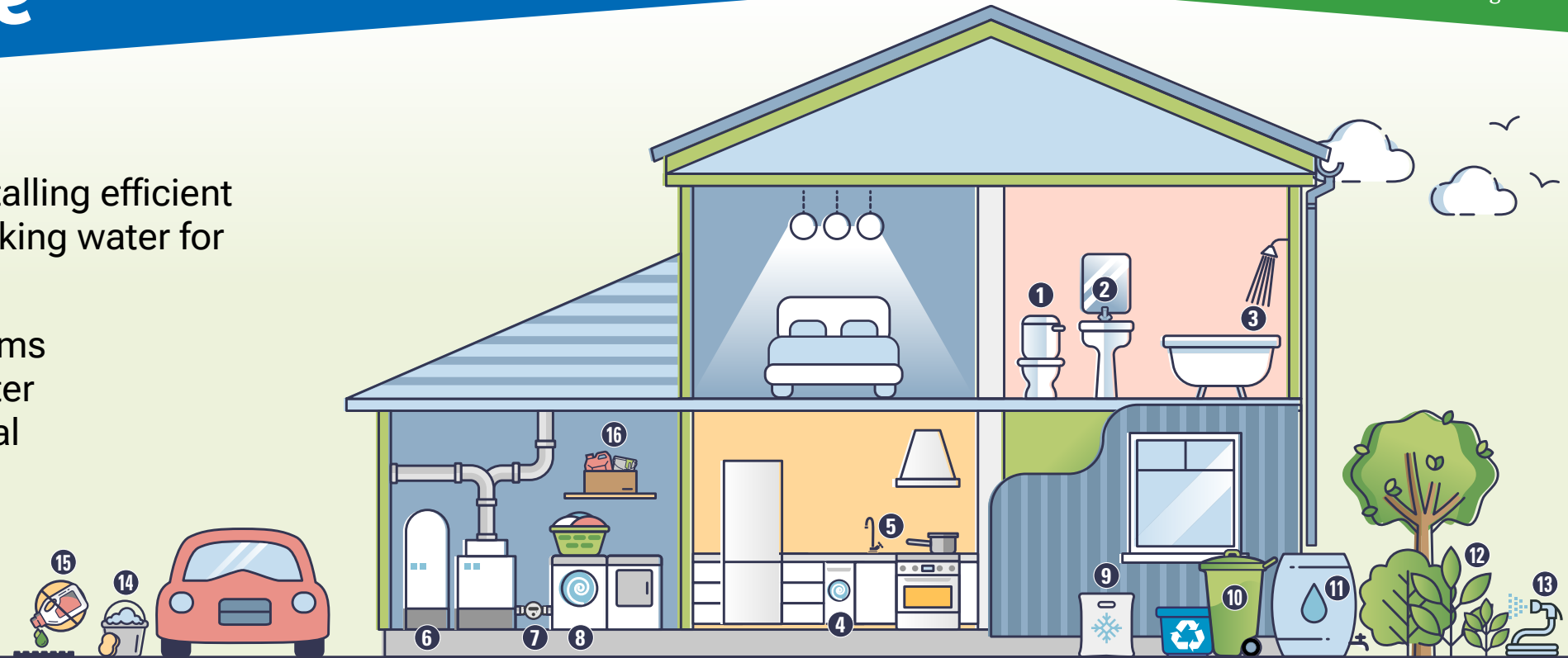


Smart water management actions in and around your home

Checking for leaks, improving water-use habits and installing efficient appliances or fixtures helps ensure there is enough drinking water for everyone, now and in the future.

Managing what enters our wastewater and sewer systems helps to protect the pipes and equipment supplying water to and from our homes and reduces pollution in our local environment.

Smart water management not only conserves and protects our water, it saves you money too.



In the bathroom or kitchen

- 1. Install water-efficient toilets and check for leaks:** Replace older toilets with a WaterSense model (4.8 litres per flush or less). Check toilets for leaks twice a year and any time you hear the toilet running when no one has used it. Only flush toilet paper and human waste.
- 2. Install aerators on your taps:** Replace tap aerators with more efficient WaterSense models. Avoid letting the tap run continuously to save even more.
- 3. Shower smart:** Install a water-efficient WaterSense showerhead (7.6 litres per minute or less). Try showering for four to eight minutes or less!
- 4. Wash your dishes wisely:** Washing a full load in an Energy Star labelled dishwasher is more efficient than washing by hand with running water. Choose water-saving modes, shorter cycles and skip the pre-rinse when possible.
- 5. Keep cooking fats, oils and grease out of your drains:** Avoid blocked pipes, leading to costly sewer back-ups and basement flooding. Instead, scrape cooled hardened grease into your green bin along with small amounts of liquid oil.

In the laundry or utility room

- 6. Soften your water efficiently:** Install a water-efficient softener that only uses water when needed (NSF/ANSI 44). Make a simple plumbing change to try softening hot water only.
- 7. Monitor your water meter/bill:** Your water meter measures and records the amount of water used in your home. Monitor your consumption history on your water bill to help detect leaks. **On average, a resident uses 4.5 cubic metres (m³) of water per month.**
- 8. Wash your clothes wisely:** Use a high-efficiency, Energy Star labelled washing machine. Ensure laundry loads are full, or set to the correct load size to save more water and energy.

Outdoors

- 9. Limit winter salt use:** Use salt sparingly as it all ends up in our drinking water.
- 10. Recycle and compost:** Use your blue box to help reduce the need for new raw materials, saving water in the manufacturing process. Toss food scraps in your green bin or composter to help make moisture-retaining soil for gardens.
- 11. Harvest rainwater:** Water your garden for free, anytime, using a rain barrel and watering can instead of treated drinking water. Plants love rainwater!

- 12. Choose water efficient plants:** Native or drought-tolerant plants thrive in our climate with little water. Water plants deeply and less often to minimize evaporation and improve root systems.
- 13. Use outdoor water wisely:** Water your lawn or garden only on your assigned day during the permitted morning and evening hours, and even then, only if needed. See the *Water Conservation By-law 07-069* to learn more.
- 14. Maintain your car responsibly:** Keep your car in good repair to avoid oil leaks and clean your car at a car wash that recycles water and sends dirty water to the sanitary sewer.

Hazardous waste

- 15. Keep all chemicals out of sewers:** Sewers are direct routes to lakes and rivers. Keep car washing soap, household cleaners, pool water, gasoline and oil away from the sewers/catch basins. See the *Sewer Use By-law 21-036* to learn more.
- 16. Store and dispose of hazardous waste responsibly:** Check the Region's Waste Whiz app or visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste to find free household hazardous waste disposal programs. Switch to natural, rather than chemical options, whenever possible.