



HOME WATER & ENERGY SURVEY

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Mark only one answer per question, indicating the answer that is most true.
2. Skip any question that you cannot or do not wish to answer (but try to answer them all).
3. When you have marked all of your answers, go online to surveys.bewaterwise.com to input your answers and receive recommendations.



If you see this symbol, you may need the help or supervision of an adult.

PART 1: SAVING WATER

1. **Faucets.** Do people leave the water running while washing hands, brushing teeth, shaving, doing dishes, or cleaning fruits and vegetables?
 
 - a. yes, some people leave the water running
 - b. no

2. **Showers.** Do family members spend more than about 10 minutes in the shower?
 - a. yes, some take long showers
 - b. no, most take short showers

3. **Showerheads.** What is your showerhead's water output?
 - a. 1 to 2½ gallons per minute
 - b. 2½ to 5 gallons per minute
 - c. more than 5 gallons per minute

Not Sure?

Here's how to find out how much water your showerhead puts out:



1. Get two buckets, a watch with a second hand, and a measuring cup.
2. Hold one bucket under the showerhead and have someone turn on the water at full pressure.
3. Let the water run into the bucket for 15 seconds.
4. Measure how many cups of water are in the bucket and multiply the number of cups by 4 (to calculate how many cups per minute).
5. Convert the number of cups to gallons (16 cups in a gallon) to determine how many gallons flow per minute.
6. Go water some plants so you don't waste the water!

4. **Toilet Trash.** Is trash (e.g., tissues, hair, paper scraps, dental floss, etc.) sometimes flushed down toilets?
 - a. yes
 - b. no

5. **Toilet Type.** What type of toilet(s) do you have at home?
 - a. regular
 - b. ultra-low-flush
 - c. dual-flush or high-efficiency



Not Sure?

To find out what type of toilet you have, first look under the tank lid or just behind the seat. If the toilet type or gallons per flush is not indicated, here's how to find out:

1. Get a pitcher or bucket that shows measurement in cups/quarts/gallons.
2. Turn off the incoming water behind the toilet.
3. Mark the water level in the tank with tape or a grease pencil.
4. Flush the toilet.
5. Use the pitcher or bucket to refill the tank (not the bowl) to the mark you made, noting how much water is needed (16 cups = 4 quarts = 1 gallon).
6. Add ½ gallon to the total (the amount that fills the toilet bowl).
7. Now compare your figure to the numbers below to determine which type of toilet you have:
 - 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush = regular toilet
 - 1.6 gallons per flush = ultra low flush toilet
 - 1.3 gallons or less per flush = dual-flush or high efficiency

7. **Dishwasher and Clothes Washer.** Are the dishwasher and/or clothes washer used only when full?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't have a dishwasher or clothes washer



8. **Age of Appliances.** Is your dishwasher or clothes washer more than 10 years old?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't have either appliance

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8. Watering Time. When does the lawn or garden usually get watered?

- a. morning
- b. mid-day or evening
- c. late night
- d. don't have a lawn or garden



9. Seasonal Watering. Is the time spent watering the lawn changed depending on the season (that is, fewer minutes in fall and winter, more in spring and summer)?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have a lawn

10. Sprinklers. If you use automatic sprinklers, what type are they?

- a. conventional fan spray
- b. rotating nozzle
- c. don't have automatic sprinklers

Not Sure?

The conventional pop-up automatic sprinklers spray a fan of water across the grass. The rotating sprinkler projects streams of water while the sprinkler head rotates to cover the area.



11. Overspray. If sprinklers are used—either attached to the hose or built in—does a lot of pavement get wet from overspray?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't use sprinklers

12. Runoff. How much water runs off the lawn onto paved areas or into gutters when the lawn is watered?

- a. not very much
- b. quite a lot
- c. don't have a lawn

13. Landscape. What makes up most of your yard?

- a. mostly turf grass (lawn)
- b. mostly plants
- c. mostly rocks, concrete, or other elements that do not need water
- d. don't have a yard

14. Plants. Are the plants in your yard mostly California Friendly®?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't know
- d. don't have plants

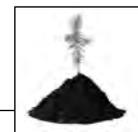


Not Sure?

California Friendly® plants are usually native to California, don't require a lot of water, and thrive in our semi-arid climate. Go to www.bewaterwise.com for examples of these plants.

15. Mulch. Do the trees and/or plants in your yard have mulch around them?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have trees or plants



Not Sure?

Mulch covers the soil. It might be woodchips, shredded bark, sawdust, straw, grass clippings, rubber shavings, or other organic or inorganic material.

16. Clean-ups. How often is the hose used to clean driveways, patios, sidewalks, or other pavement areas?

- a. never or rarely
- b. often or sometimes



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17. Car Washing. Is the hose turned off while the car is being soaped before it is rinsed?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't wash car at home



18. Pool or Spa. Is the swimming pool and/or hot tub covered at night and during cool weather?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have pool or hot tub

19. Water Leaks. Do any of your faucets, pipes, or toilets leak?

- a. yes
- b. no



Not Sure?

There are several ways to check for leaks. Before doing any of them, turn off all faucets and make sure no one is using any water.

- Find your water meter and watch the dial or the small triangular flow indicator for 5 to 10 minutes. If the meter moves, you've got a leak.
- Look at all faucets and pipes, inside and outside your house: Are any dripping water? Are there any damp spots underneath them?
- Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank at the back of the toilet; wait a few minutes to see if any of the color appears in the bowl. If so, you have a toilet leak.

20. Hazardous Wastes. How does your family usually dispose of hazardous waste products?

- a. take to special hazardous waste disposal sites in our community
- b. put in the regular trash can or pour into gutter storm drains or down house drains



Not Sure?

Hazardous waste includes products that can harm you and the environment if they are not disposed of properly, such as:

- used motor oil
- batteries
- paint and paint cans
- ink cartridges
- cleaners and solvents
- medicines

Look at labels for words such as hazardous, toxic, poisonous, dangerous.

PART 2: CONSERVING ENERGY

21. Heating Temperature. At what temperature is your thermostat usually set in winter?

- a. 68 degrees or lower
- b. 69 degrees or higher
- c. don't have a thermostat



22. Nighttime Temperature. Is the heat turned down or off at night when people go to bed?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have a thermostat

23. Heater Vents. Are heater vents closed in unused rooms?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have vents or unused rooms



24. Furnace Filter. Is the furnace filter changed or cleaned every month or two in winter?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have a furnace filter

25. Cooling Temperature. At what temperature is your thermostat usually set for air conditioning?

- a. 78 degrees or higher
- b. 77 degrees or lower
- c. don't have an air conditioner

26. Heater/Air Conditioner Tune-up. How often do you tune-up your heating/air conditioning system?

- a. once a year
- b. every 1 to 5 years
- c. every 5 or more years

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27. Insulation. How much insulation is in the ceiling or attic of your home?



- a. 0 to 3 inches
- b. 3 to 6 inches
- c. 6 or more inches
- d. can't tell



28. Windows and Doors. Are windows and outside doors kept closed when the heater or air conditioner is on?

- a. yes
- b. no, not all of the time

29. Drafts. Does air leak in or out of windows or doors even when they are closed?

- a. yes
- b. no



Not Sure?

To check windows and doors for leaks, make a "draftometer" and conduct the following test:

1. Cut a piece of thin plastic food-wrap about 5 inches wide and 10 inches long.
2. Tape the short edge of the plastic along the edge of a pencil.
3. Hold this draftometer near the edges of doors and windows. If the plastic moves, then air is leaking in or out.

30. Shade. Are your windows shaded during hot weather either by trees or blinds or other window coverings?

- a. yes
- b. no



31. Roof Vents. Are your attic roof vents open—not covered—all year long?



- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have roof vents

32. Water Heater Temperature.



Is your water heater temperature set at 130 degrees or lower, or at the *conservation*, *medium*, or *low* settings?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have a water heater or it is not accessible

33. Wash Temperature. What temperature is used for most loads of laundry?

- a. hot
- b. warm
- c. cold

34. Light Bulbs. Do most of the light fixtures or lamps in your home contain fluorescent light tubes or compact fluorescent light bulbs?

- a. yes
- b. no



Not Sure?

Fluorescent light bulbs will likely be either long tubes or oddly shaped bulbs, both of which stay cool, as opposed to round incandescent bulbs, which get very hot.

35. Outdoor Lights. What kinds of light bulbs are used for outdoor lighting?

- a. incandescent
- b. fluorescent
- c. high-pressure sodium
- d. don't have outdoor lighting



Not Sure?

Incandescent bulbs are the typical round bulbs, which get very hot. Fluorescent bulbs are either straight tubes or tubes bent into compact bulbs, which stay cool. High-pressure sodium bulbs emit a yellowish light.

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36. Lights and Appliances. Are lights, televisions, stereos, and other electric appliances turned off when they're not being used?

- a. yes, most of the time
- b. no, they are often left on

37. Cooking. Is a microwave or toaster oven, rather than the large oven in the stove, used to heat small meals or snacks?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't have a microwave or toaster oven

38. Refrigerator Coils. Are your refrigerator coils clean or dirty?
(Coils are usually located at the back of the refrigerator.)



- a. clean
- b. dirty or dusty

39. Ages of Major Appliances. Are any of your major appliances (such as furnace, air conditioner, water heater, refrigerator) more than 15 years old?

- a. yes
- b. no

40. Pool Filter. When is your pool or spa filter run?

- a. during the day
- b. in the evening or at night
- c. don't have a pool or spa



41. Carpooling. Do you carpool to school or work on most days?

- a. yes
- b. no, my parent or someone else usually drives just me
- c. no, I walk or bike
- d. no, I take a bus or other form of mass transportation

42. Parental Taxi. Do you usually ask your parents or someone else to drive you places, even when you could walk or bike or skateboard?

- a. yes
- b. no

43. Shopping. Do family members sometimes shop from home via the Internet or catalogs, rather than drive to stores?

- a. yes
- b. no

44. Trip Links. Are several errands combined into one car trip rather than separate trips for each errand?

- a. yes
- b. no

45. Recycling. Are your family's old newspapers, metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, cardboard boxes, phone books, etc. recycled instead of buried in a landfill?

- a. yes
- b. no, most waste goes into regular trash cans and is not recycled



Not Sure?

There are several ways to recycle:

- (1) *Your trash company gives you separate containers for recyclable and non-recyclable waste.*
- (2) *You put all waste in the same container because your trash company then sorts and recycles your trash.*
- (3) *Your family saves recyclable products and takes them to a recycle center.*