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# lower your water bill



## WITH THESE TIPS

**IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD**, we tend to take it for granted that when we turn on our taps, clean, consumable water will come out. Unfortunately, as situations like the Walkerton water crisis and the California droughts show, this is not always the case.

We need to protect our water sources. With less than three percent of the world's water being suitable for human consumption, we need to minimize our use.

Here are some tips for doing that, and saving on your water bill in the process.

### Install low use fixtures

Older faucets, shower heads and toilets use more water than modern fixtures. Upgrading to faucets that have aerators or to low flush toilets will save you money almost immediately.

### Shorten shower times

You don't need to compromise on hygiene to save water. The average Canadian showers for eight minutes and uses seventeen gallons. Reducing your shower to five minutes will save you six gallons per shower, or more than 2,000 gallons in a year.

### Turn off water while soaping

You don't need to have water running down the drain while you soap your hands or the dishes. Turn it off to save water while you lather up.

### Use your dishwasher (and load it up)

Speaking of dishes, your dishwasher uses less water for the same number of dishes washed by hand. As long as you fill it (without overfilling), the soap, water and heat will keep your dishes sparkling while saving water.



### Avoid running your washing machine with small loads

Those special items that need to be washed separately from the rest of the load can be washed by hand. Running a washing machine cycle for a tiny load not only wastes water, but electricity as well. Also plan washing during off hours

to save money.

### Check for signs of leaks in your plumbing

Not all leaks are clearly visible. Piping inside walls and in areas rarely occupied can drip water for a long time before their discovered. Do regular inspections in each area.

### Fix leaks as soon as they happen

Once you discover a leak, whether hidden or easily visible, call in a professional to deal with it as soon as possible. You'll save money both from stopping the water wastage and from a cheaper repair.

### Install water monitoring and shutoff devices

Water leakage systems monitor flow to your entire home or to specific appliances. Some even automatically shut off the supply to protect your home from flooding and damage, as well as save water.

If you need help installing devices and fixtures to reduce your water consumption, give us a call.

# sudoku



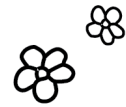
	4		1
3		4	
1			4
	2	1	

1			
4	1	2	3
2	3	4	

## SOLUTIONS:

1	4	3	2
3	2	1	4
2	3	4	1
4	1	2	3

3	1	2	4
4	2	3	1
2	4	1	3
1	3	4	2



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## JOKE SECTION!

**Knock knock!**  
Who's there?  
**Water.**

Water who?  
**Water you waiting for? Open the door!**

**What did one toilet say**  
**to the other toilet?**  
You look flushed!



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## protect your valuables



You work hard for your home and the items in it. Keeping your valuables safe, especially sentimental items like heirlooms, is important. Here are some tips for keeping valuables safe.

### Use hidden compartments

There are many options for hiding valuables that burglars would be unlikely to find. Inside compartments behind fake grilles, electrical outlets, junction boxes and inside hollowed out books are some of the best places. Old food containers in your pantry can also hide important items, as well as inside children's stuffed toys.

### Put valuables in a safe

If the safe is fire-rated, your items will be protected from fires as well as theft. Safes that are easy to remove will not provide much protection. Floor-mounted safes are difficult to remove and will frustrate a thief's efforts to get your valuables.

### Keep curtains drawn

This can be a double edged sword as thieves can rummage through your home for a longer time unseen. However, for the purpose of keeping your electronics and other larger valuable items hidden, closing curtains will keep these items out of sight and lower the chance of someone choosing to rob your home.

### Lock all doors and windows

Depending on where you live, you may be used to leaving doors

(con't on pg.3)



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## protect your valuables (con't.)

unlocked. But never take it for granted that the security you experienced for years will continue. Robbery is a crime of opportunity so giving thieves easy access puts you at increased risk of being chosen. Remember to close your garage door and lock the door between your attached garage and the rest of the house. Make it a habit of checking doors and windows at bedtime, especially if you have young ones that may fiddle with latches and bolts.

### Install a security system

Home security has become more affordable and accessible in the past decade. You don't need to live in a large house to consider securing your home with an electronic system. From simple cameras that connect to your smartphone to sophisticated wireless systems that call the police directly in the case of an emergency, the options are limited by your imagination and budget.

### Install security lighting

Burglars don't like to be seen. If your home is brightly lit from outside, they are less likely to attempt to break in.

Keeping your valuables safe is enough work without worrying about your house. If you need help with your home, give us a call.



Source: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/rachael-ray/chicken-piccata-pasta-toss-recipe2-1913492>

# Chicken Piccata Pasta Toss

## INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 1 1/3 pounds chicken breast tenders, cut into 1-inch pieces  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 1 1/2 tablespoons butter  
 4 cloves garlic, chopped  
 2 shallots, chopped  
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
 1/2 cup white wine  
 1 lemon, juiced  
 1 cup chicken broth or stock  
 3 tablespoons capers, drained or 1/2 cup cooked bacon  
 1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped  
 1 pound penne rigate pasta, cooked to al dente  
 Chopped or snipped chives, for garnish



Heat a deep nonstick skillet over medium high heat. Add a tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil and the chicken to the pan. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Brown chicken until lightly golden all over, about 5 to 6 minutes. Remove chicken from pan and reduce heat to medium. Add another tablespoon extra virgin olive oil and 1 tablespoon butter, garlic, and shallots. Sauté for 3 minutes. Add flour and cook 2 minutes. Whisk in wine and reduce liquid 1 minute. Whisk lemon juice and broth into sauce. Stir in capers (if desired) and parsley. When the liquid comes to a bubble, add remaining 1/2 tablespoon butter to the sauce to give it a little shine. Add the bacon (optional) and the chicken back to the pan and heat through, 1 to 2 minutes. Toss hot pasta with chicken and sauce and serve.

Adjust salt and pepper, to your taste. Top with fresh snipped chives. Enjoy!



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