



Home Water Use... A Family Survey



Water is a resource shared by all, so each of us should do our part to conserve.

Conserving water is good for the environment, can help save money on utility bills, and reduce time spent on yard maintenance.

florida's water
it's worth saving



Saving water resources

Water conservation may seem unnecessary in a state surrounded by water, but not all of that water is readily available for our use.

In the St. Johns River Water Management District, more than 90 percent of the water we use comes from groundwater, water drawn from underground aquifers. Though Florida usually receives about 50 inches of rain each year, only about 13 inches of water seeps into the ground to replenish underground aquifers. This groundwater source will not be able to meet all future demands.

Looking at these factors, it's easy to see why water conservation is important and necessary in our homes, schools and businesses and why water conservation is a key strategy to sustaining Florida's water.

By following a few simple steps, you can save thousands of gallons of water each year. And, if you conserve water, you will also save energy and money.



How to use this survey

Filling out this survey is intended to give you a general idea of how much water you use each day in and around your home. More detailed information is available on the District's website at floridaswater.com. In this printed survey, fill in the requested information in each box that applies to your home. Tally the numbers for your indoor use, placing your total in the box provided on page 5. Then do the same on page 6 to record your outdoor water use. Place your indoor water use number and your outdoor water use number in the spaces provided and add together to get your total daily household use.

You can also determine daily household water use from a monthly water bill. Divide the number of gallons used (shown on the bill) by the number of days in the billing month.

From either this survey or from your water bill, you can determine the per person water use by taking the daily water use number and dividing by the number of people living in your house.

An interactive version of this survey can be found at floridaswater.com/waterconservation/survey.html.

Indoor water use

Showers

Number of showers	Number of minutes	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
X	X	2.0 (WaterSense®)	=
X	X	2.5 (Florida Building Code)	=
X	X	5 (Pre 1994)	=

List the number of showers taken each day by all people in your household and multiply by the number of minutes each person showers.

Baths

Number in family	Number of baths	Gallons per bath	Gallons used
X	X	12 (1/3 tub)	=
X	X	36 (full tub)	=
X	X	70 (garden tub)	=

Determine which listing accurately describes the type of tub used in your house. Fill in the information on the appropriate line(s). Fill in all lines that apply.

Toilet flushing

Number in family	Flushes per day	Gallons per flush	Gallons used
X	X	1.28 (WaterSense®)	=
X	X	1.6 (Florida Building Code)	=
X	X	3.5 (Pre 1994)	=

The average number of flushes per person per day is four.

Hand washing

Number of times	Minutes per time	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
X	X	1.5 (WaterSense®)	=
X	X	2.2 (Florida Building Code)	=
X	X	4 (Pre 1994)	=

Check for the flow number on the rim of the faucet aerator.

- See definitions of WaterSense®, Florida Building Code, Pre 1994 and ENERGY STAR® on page 8.

Dish washing by hand

Times washed	Minutes water runs	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
X	X	2.2 (Florida Building Code)	=
X	X	4 (Pre 1994)	=

Enter the number of times each day you wash dishes by hand and multiply by the number of minutes the water runs. Enter your information on the appropriate line above based on the water flow number shown on the rim of your faucet aerator.

Dishwasher

Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
÷	7	X 5.8 (ENERGY STAR®*)	=
÷	7	X 6.5 (average)	=
÷	7	X 11 (high)	=

Enter the number of days each week your automatic dishwasher is used, then divide by 7. Check the listing for “normal load” in your owner’s manual to determine if your dishwasher uses an average or high amount of water. * 2010 models and after.

Clothes washer

Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
÷	7	X 18 (ENERGY STAR®*)	=
÷	7	X 30 (average)	=
÷	7	X 40 (high)	=

Enter the number for how many loads of laundry are done each week. Determine which line to enter your information based on your owner’s manual for the wash cycle you typically use. Information is also available at energystar.gov (see the “Products” listing). *2011 models and after.

Other indoor uses

Other indoor uses	Gallons used

In the chart above, list other ways you use water indoors, such as for preparing food, etc. Then estimate the number of gallons you use for each activity.

Total daily indoor water use

Outdoor water use

Lawn watering

Days watered	Minutes per use	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
X	X	12	=

This calculation is based on using a garden hose and is an average flow.

Automatic irrigation systems

Number of 45-degree sprinkler heads	Average run time per zone	Gallons per minute (gpm)*	Number of days watered each week	Gallons used weekly to irrigate
X	X	.5 gpm	X	=
Number of 90-degree sprinkler heads				
X	X	.8 gpm	X	=
Number of 180-degree sprinkler heads				
X	X	1.3 gpm	X	=
Number of 360-degree sprinkler heads				
X	X	2.65 gpm	X	=

* Assumes a 12-foot throw radius.

Total =

Other outdoor uses

Other outdoor uses	Gallons used

In the chart above, list other ways you use water outdoors. Then estimate the number of gallons you use for each activity.

Total weekly outdoor water use

Divide by 7 to find your daily use

Total family water use per day

Indoor daily total	Outdoor daily total	Gallons used
	+	=

Water conservation facts and tips

- Fixtures such as toilets, faucets and showerheads with WaterSense® labels are efficient.
- Dishwashers and clothes washers with ENERGY STAR® labels are water-efficient.
- Retrofitting your faucets with aerators will help save water in your home. A faucet aerator is a small circular screen that is screwed into the faucet. They are inexpensive and easy to install.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it and follow the watering restrictions that allow watering only on designated days and times.
- Water your lawn only during the early morning or early evening on designated days to reduce water losses from evaporation.
- Apply no more than three-quarters inch of water per lawn watering application.
- Position sprinklers to water the landscape, not paved surfaces.
- Use the appropriate sprinkler head for the irrigated area, such as rotors or spray heads for turf and micro-irrigation or soaker hoses for planting beds.
- Set automatic irrigation systems correctly to follow watering restrictions and turn off when there has been adequate rainfall.
- Maintain your irrigation system, checking for broken or misdirected sprinklers, clogged spray heads, and wet spots around in-ground sprinklers that could indicate underground leaks.
- Set clothes washers for the appropriate load size. For washing machines with variable settings for water volume, select the minimum amount required per load. If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads. Check hoses regularly for leaks.
- You can save water in your swimming pool by installing a cover and ensuring there are no leaks. Placing a cover over your pool will help reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.
- Turn off the water as you brush your teeth, wash your face or shave. Faucets left in the open, running position waste from several hundred to several thousand gallons of water per day.

Watering restrictions

- The St. Johns River Water Management District's mandatory restrictions allow watering no more than two days a week during daylight saving time (second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November) and one day per week during Eastern Standard Time (first Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March). Less water is needed when it rains, and in cooler weather. Only water your lawn if it needs it. The days on which you may water depend on your home address:

Addresses that end in an odd number (or have no address)	Addresses that end in an even number
Daylight saving time — Wednesday and Saturday	Daylight saving time — Thursday and Sunday
Eastern Standard Time — Saturday	Eastern Standard Time — Sunday

- Watering is limited to three-quarters of an inch per application, and irrigation can occur for no more than one hour per day per zone.
- Watering is allowed only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Watering during the early morning or early evening hours reduces losses from evaporation and wind that can occur during the middle of the day. This also allows the water to seep into the ground to the grass and plant roots, promoting healthier plants with deep root systems.
- There are a few exceptions to these restrictions, which are detailed at floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions.
- Non-residential landscape irrigation follows a different watering schedule.

Definitions

Florida Building Code — The current (2011) statewide uniform building code that applies to all new construction, additions to existing buildings, manufactured homes and renovations that set minimum standards that must be met for plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling, etc.

WaterSense® — Products are labeled with a WaterSense® label if they meet water efficiency criteria as established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. WaterSense® is a partnership program to help consumers choose products that save water and protect the environment.

Pre 1994 — Significant updates were made to Florida Building Codes in 1994 to increase water and energy efficiency. Buildings constructed prior to 1994 that have existing fixtures are not as water or energy efficient as structures built to current building standards.

ENERGY STAR® — Labeling for products that are tested and rated as energy efficient by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy.



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