

Simple Steps to SAVE WATER

Outdoors & In



TEST WITH TRACKS

Water your lawn and landscape only when it is actually needed, such as when footprints are left when you walk across the grass.

AVOID BUZZ CUTS

Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your turf species or the highest setting on your lawn mower. Cut no more than one-third of the grass length at one time to encourage grass roots to grow deeper.



SPRINKLE WITH CARE

Apply moderate amounts of water to create a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn. For most Florida soils, applying no more than three-quarters of an inch of water per application is enough to revitalize the grass. Use spray heads designed for planting beds. Position the sprinkler so that you water only the lawn and shrubs, not paved areas.



OUTDOORS



PLANT FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LAWNS

Plant native or drought-tolerant vegetation that thrives in the native soil and local weather conditions. Go native, and resist the urge to water it and just let it go brown during the dry season. It will come back, as nature intended, when the rains come.



FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY

Excessive nutrients flowing into our waterways do not only come from big industry or agriculture. The use of fertilizer and pesticides on our yards results in pollutants contaminating the waterways in stormwater runoff when it rains. Residents are encouraged not to use fertilizers or pesticides during the warmer months and to use them in the correct amounts during other times of the year.

INDOORS



NOZZLE THE NOSE OF YOUR HOSE

Equip hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles for car washing, hand watering, etc.

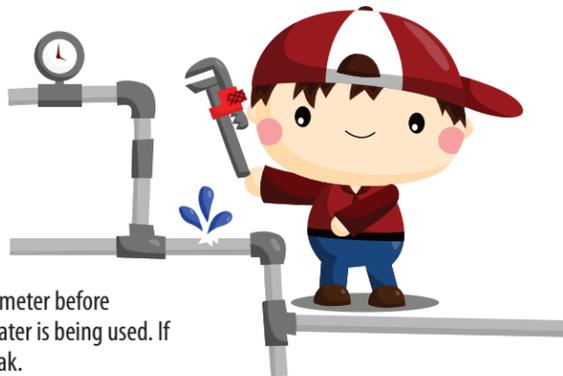


COLOR YOUR WATER

Detect a leaking toilet by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. Replace the bad parts or consider upgrading to water-efficient toilets. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in a trash can rather than in the toilet.

CHECK YOUR WATER METER

Check for leaking pipes by reading your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the readings are different, you have a leak.



TURN IT OFF

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.



TIME YOUR SHOWERS

By timing your showers to keep them under five minutes and installing low-flow shower heads, you can save water. The older the shower head, the more water it uses. New low-flow shower heads use only 2 gallons of water per minute or less. Older fixtures use as much as 5 gallons per minute.



LOAD IT UP

Set clothes washing machines that have variable settings for water volume at the minimum amount required per load. If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads only.