

Saving Water - All Around the House

Conservation Motivation

The average Tampa family uses about 200 gallons of water each day, indoors and outdoors. Check your bill to find out how much you and your family use. Use the tips and information in this brochure to plan your way to water, energy and money savings.

Outdoors:

Automatic irrigation systems can dramatically increase home water use. To learn about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ visit floridayards.org. To see photos of Water Wise Landscapes in Tampa Bay visit tampabaywaterwise.org.



Live Water Wise

- Know your watering days: The City of Tampa's water use restrictions are in effect year-round and may change based on water supply conditions. Know your watering days by visiting tampagov.net/WaterRestrictions or MyWateringDay.com or by calling the Water Restrictions Hotline at (813) 274-8032.
- An inch is great, watering can wait: Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall and skip the next irrigation event when your yard receives adequate rainfall. Or use the free mobile device application called "Smartirrigation Turf" to receive current localized rainfall information via your mobile device that will help you know when to water your urban turf. Visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae499> for more info.
- Let your lawn tell you when to water: Lawns can develop more water-efficient root systems when irrigation is delayed until soil moisture is depleted. Signs of water deficit include grass blades folding together or footprints left behind when you walk on the grass. When you see these signs, water on your next watering day.
- Stop watering in the rain: Automatic irrigation systems must be equipped with an automatic shut-off device such as a rain sensor. City of Tampa customers may be eligible to receive one free rain sensor. Call (813) 274-8121, option #5.
- Water according to the season. Use the seasonal irrigation settings recommended by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, as shown in the table below.

Head Type	Setting	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Spray	Ideal	25 min	15 min	0 min	20 min
	Range	20-30 min	10-20 min	0-10 min	15-20 min
Rotor	Ideal	45 min	30 min	<10 min	40 min
	Range	40-60 min	20-40 min	0-20 min	35-55 min

Saving Water Outdoors – continued

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida friendly landscapes can save water and protect the environment. The nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ are:



1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize as Needed
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Control Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront



Visit <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/fyn/index.shtml> for photos, resources, workshops and tips on the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ or call UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County at (813) 744-5519.

Florida-Friendly Landscape Demonstration Site

Visit the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden to find seasonal color and inspiration for your own landscape.

Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

5339 County Road 579

Seffner, FL 33584

Exit 10 from Interstate 4

(813) 744-5519

The Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden is a collection of gardens that conveys landscape design and maintenance ideas. The garden showcases plants that are outstanding performers in central Florida and provides a beautiful, serene setting for enjoyment, education and inspiration.



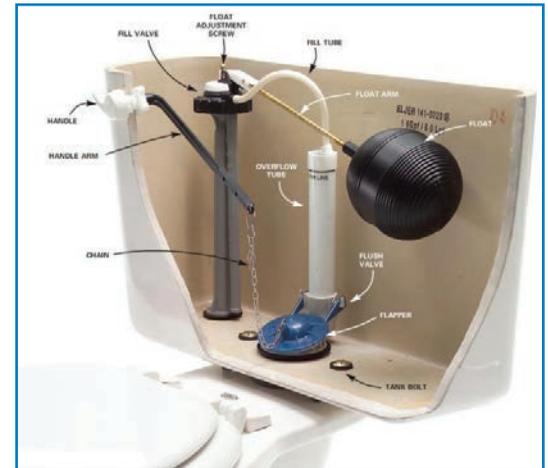
Visitors are invited to explore this “living” lab to see the nine principles of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program put into action. Maintained by volunteers from the Master Gardener Program, the garden has many inspiring design elements including decking, pavers, mulches, trellises, containers, lighting, screening, seating, and water features. While you’re there experience the helpful knowledge available through the staff and volunteers of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Hillsborough County, which offers free diagnostic services, one-on-one consultations, brochures and handouts on a wide array of gardening topics, workshops and informational displays.

Saving Water Indoors

Water Wise Toilet Talk

Toilets can be the main source of water use in your home, accounting for 23 percent or more of a family's indoor water consumption. Older toilets can use up to six gallons per flush. By replacing inefficient toilets with efficient models that use as little as 1.28 gallons per flush, the average family can reduce water used for toilet flushing by 20 to 60 percent and may save as much as 13,000 gallons of water savings every year (www.epa.gov). Start saving water today with these tips:

- Check for leaks in your toilet: Place toilet leak detection tablets (available free from the Tampa Water Department) or a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. Wait about 15 minutes, and then check the toilet bowl for color. Remember not to flush during this test. If color appears in the bowl, there is a leak.
- Avoid using the toilet as a trash can: Throw tissues, gum wrappers, bugs and other items in the waste basket instead of the toilet.



Indoors:

Free water-saving retrofit kits include showerheads, faucet aerators, and toilet leak detection tablets. Eligible City of Tampa customers can request a kit online at tampagov.net/SaveWater or call (813) 274-8121, option #5.



Shorter Showers, Lower Baths, and Smarter Faucet Use

Showers, baths and sinks account for about 50 percent of the indoor water for most families. Order your free indoor plumbing retrofit kit online at tampagov.net/SaveWater or call (813) 274-8121, option #5.

- Look for the WaterSense® label: Water efficient showerheads can reduce water use to 1.5 gallons per minute. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to search for WaterSense® labeled products.
- Save water, save energy: Reducing shower time to five minutes or less can save 11 gallons of water per shower. Families also reduce electricity costs when they reduce hot water use.
- Don't walk away from running water: If you wait for the hot water to get through the pipes before you get in the shower, don't walk away and get distracted.
- Lower the bathwater: Every inch of reduced depth in a standard size tub saves five gallons of water. Start by filling the tub half full a few times, then work down from there.
- Turn off the faucet: Avoid brushing, lathering, or shaving with the water running. Save more water by installing a low-volume faucet aerator that reduces flow to one gallon per minute.

Saving Water Indoors – continued

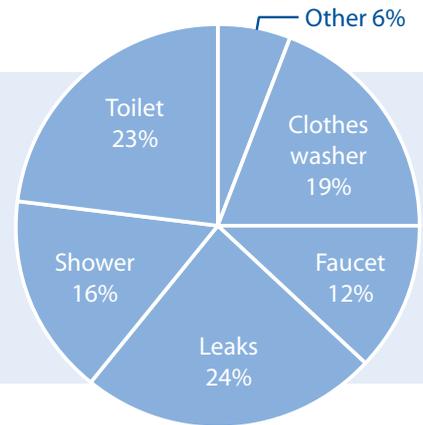
Washing Clothes

Washing clothes accounts for up to 19 percent of indoor water use. One load of clothes may use up to 55 gallons of water. Always wash a full load of clothes or adjust the machine setting to the proper level. When it's time to replace an appliance, look for Energy Star® high-efficiency appliances.

Average Indoor Water Use

This chart shows estimated indoor water use for a single-family home in the Tampa Bay region.

Source: Tampa Bay Water Five Year Plan 2013 @ <http://www.tampabaywater.org/documents/conservation/FiveYearPlan2013.pdf>



Kitchen Help

Take these simple water-saving steps in the kitchen:

- Wash full loads: Dishwashers use approximately 15 gallons per load, so wait until you have a full load. Avoid leaving the faucet running while you scrape dishes and load the machine.
- Stop the drain: When washing dishes by hand, plug the drains to collect water for washing and rinsing.
- Rinse and reuse: Clean vegetables and fruits in a basin of water rather than under running water. Use the basin of rinse water on your potted plants or landscape when you finish.
- Chill out: Fill a jug with water for drinking and chill it in the refrigerator instead of running the tap to cool it down. Don't throw ice cubes down the drain – use them to water your potted plants.
- Don't ignore drips: Fix drips and leaks as soon as they appear. Some drips may be repaired by replacing worn washers. Ask the folks at your local hardware or plumbing store for help on leak repairs.

How Much Water Do You Use Each Day?

Use the calculation shown below to get “gallons per person per day” for your household.

$$\frac{\text{CCF used}}{\text{number of days of service}} \times 748 \div \frac{\text{number of people in household}}{\text{gallons per person per day}} =$$

Your monthly water charges are based upon actual use, calculated directly from your monthly meter readings (current minus previous), shown on your utility bill as “CCF (100 cubic feet).” Review your utility bill to find out how many CCF you used last month. For a detailed explanation of your utility bill, visit tampagov.net/cotu and follow the “Example Utility Bill” link or call (813) 274-8811, option #3.



**Water
Department**

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