



# Home Water Use... A Family Survey



Water is a resource shared by all, and as Florida's population increases, so does the need for all of Florida's residents to conserve.

Conserving water is good for the environment and can help you save money on utility bills, and spend less time on home 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 drinking or irrigation. Add to that the fact that thousands of people are moving to Florida each month, increasing the demands on freshwater supplies.

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 all 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 St. Johns River Water Management District's Web site at [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com). In this printed survey, fill in the requested information in each box that applies to the structure in which you live. 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.

Another way to determine your daily household water use is with your monthly water bill from your utility. Take the number of gallons used (shown on the bill) and divide that number by the number of the days in the billing month.

An interactive version of this survey can be found at [www.sjrwm.com/floridaswater/conservation/survey.html](http://www.sjrwm.com/floridaswater/conservation/survey.html).

# Indoor water use

## Showers

Number of showers	Number of minutes	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
<b>X</b>		<b>X 2.5</b> (low flow)	<b>=</b>
<b>X</b>		<b>X 8</b> (high flow)	<b>=</b>

List the number of showers taken each day by all people in your household and multiply by how many minutes each person showers. If your house was built since Jan. 1, 1994, or is retrofitted, use the “low flow” number, otherwise use the “high flow” number.

## Baths

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

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
<b>X</b>		<b>X 1.6</b> (low flow)	<b>=</b>
<b>X</b>		<b>X 4</b> (high flow)	<b>=</b>

If your house was built since Jan. 1, 1994, or is retrofitted, use the “low flow” number, otherwise use the “high flow” number. The average number of flushes per person per day is four.

## Hand washing

Number of times	Minutes per time	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
<b>X</b>		<b>X 1.5</b> (low flow)	<b>=</b>
<b>X</b>		<b>X 2.5</b> (high flow)	<b>=</b>

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

## Dish washing by hand

Times washed	Minutes water runs	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
X		X 2.2 (low flow)	=
X		X 2.5 (high flow)	=

Enter the number of times each day you wash dishes by hand and multiply by the number of minutes the water runs. Check for the flow number on the rim of the faucet aerator.

## Dishwasher

Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
÷	7	X 6.5 (low flow)	=
÷	7	X 11 (high flow)	=

Enter the number of days each week the automatic dishwasher is used. Then divide by 7. Check the listing for “normal load” in your owner’s manual to determine if your dishwasher is a high-flow or low-flow model.

## Clothes washer

Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
÷	7	X 18 (low flow)	=
÷	7	X 40 (high flow)	=

Enter the number for how many loads of laundry are done each week. Check your owner’s manual for the wash cycle you typically use. Information is also available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) (see the “Products” listing).

## 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
	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>30 =</b>

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

## 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

- Some older showerheads use more than 8 gallons per minute (gpm). New showerheads use 2.5 gpm or less. You could save water by replacing your showerhead with a newer, low-flow showerhead.
- A full bath tub typically holds 36 gallons. By filling the tub one-third full, you can save up to 24 gallons per bath.
- Garden bath tubs use approximately 30 gallons more per bath than a regular tub.
- Retrofitting your faucets with an aerator 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.
- The best way to improve toilet efficiency is to replace an old toilet with a new toilet. Toilets made before 1993 use about 4 gallons per flush (gpf). New, high-efficiency toilets use 1.28 gpf or less.
- A family that replaces an old, inefficient dishwasher with a newer, more efficient model could save as much as 1,250 gallons of water per year. New efficient models also save on energy costs. (Source: American Water Works Association)
- A non-conserving clothes washing machine uses an average of 40 gallons of water per load. A water-conserving model uses an average of 18 gallons of water per load.
- 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 you have 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 mandatory restrictions allow watering no more than two days a week during daylight saving time (warmer months) and one day per week during Eastern Standard Time (cooler months). Less water will be needed when it rains, and in cooler weather. Only water your lawn if it needs it. The days on which you may water depends on your home address:

Odd numbered (or no) addresses	Even numbered addresses
Daylight saving time – Wednesday and Saturday	Daylight saving time – Thursday and Sunday
Eastern Standard Time – Saturday	Eastern Standard Time – Sunday

The District also limits watering to three-quarters of an inch of water per application, and irrigation can occur for no more than one hour per day per zone.

- The District restrictions allow watering 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 [www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions](http://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions).
- Non-residential landscape irrigation follows a different watering schedule.

**For additional information or water conservation tips,  
visit [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com).**



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