



# 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, spend less time on home maintenance, and worry less about mold and mildew damage caused by leaking water.

**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 our state 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 household water use is with your monthly water bill from your utility. Take the number of gallons used (shown on the bill) and divide by the number of people living in the home. Then divide that number by the number of the days in the billing month.

# 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 tub typically holds 36 gallons. By filling the tub one-third full, you can save up to 24 gallons per bath.
- Garden tubs use approximately 30 gallons more per bath than a regular tub.
- Most family members brush their teeth two times per day for an average of two minutes. Leaving the faucet on while brushing your teeth wastes water.
- Retrofitting your faucet 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. New, high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 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 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.
- You can save water in your 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 while also increasing pool safety.

## Water conservation tips

- **Find out if you have a leak in your home.**

Read your water meter before and after a one-hour period when no water is being used. (Remember to wait for the hot water heater and ice maker to refill and for the regeneration of water softeners.) If the readings are different after the one-hour period, you have a leak. If you have a well, listen for the pump to turn on and off while the water is not in use. If it turns on, you have a leak.

- **Turn off the faucet.**

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.

- **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.

- **Water lawns no more than two days a week.**

The St. Johns River Water Management District rule allows watering no more than two days a week, with a few exceptions. Less water will be needed when it rains. In the fall and winter, lawns only need water once every 7–14 days. Only water your lawn if it needs it. Water users choose their own irrigation days unless their local government has adopted an ordinance incorporating the rule and specifying the days.

- **Water lawns before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.**

The District rule allows watering only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., with a few exceptions. 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.

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



**St. Johns River Water Management District**

4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429

On the Internet: [www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com)