

Water Usage Facts

Inside Your House

1. **Install faucet aerators and restrictors** - inexpensive inserts that can help reduce water use and you can install by yourself.
2. **Check for leaky faucets and valves.** Leaks waste water twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. An inexpensive washer is usually enough to stop them.
3. **Teach children to turn water faucets off tightly after use.**
4. **Entertaining extra guests?** Remember, extra people mean more water usage.

In the Bathroom

1. **Check your toilet for leaks.** Add a few drops of food coloring to water in tank. If coloring appears in toilet bowl without flushing, there is a leak. Also, listen for the sound of running water.
2. **Don't use the toilet as a trash basket or ashtray.** The toilet is an expensive disposal, and debris may cause damage to the plumbing.
3. **Don't run the water while brushing your teeth.**
4. **Turn off the water while shaving.**
5. **Check bathroom faucets and pipes for leaks.** Check for parts that are worn out, out of alignment, or corroded. A small drip can waste fifty or more gallons of water a day!
6. **Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.** Five-minute showers use less water than baths.

In the Kitchen and Laundry

1. **Run only a full dishwasher load.** Every time you run the dishwasher, you use about twenty-five gallons of water.
2. **If you wash dishes by hand, don't run the water continuously.**
3. **Don't run the tap waiting for cool water.** Use ice cubes or keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.
4. **Wash full loads only or use the load selector on your washing machine.**

Outside the House

1. **Be aware of outside water usage.** An outside water faucet/hose/sprinkler can easily deliver 15 gallons per minute. In an hour this totals 900 gallons. Florida soil can soak up

this volume in minutes without even a trace, especially on a hot day.

2. **Make every watering count.** Water slowly, thoroughly and as infrequently as possible. Water early in the morning to avoid evaporation.
3. **Select hardy plants that don't need as much water** (try native plants and grasses). Mulch heavily. Let grass grow higher in dry weather to prevent burning and to save water.
4. **Cover your swimming pool when it is not in use to prevent evaporation.** Recycle wading pool water for plants, shrubs and lawns.
5. **Clean pool decks, sidewalks, and driveways with a broom instead of water.**
6. **Wash your car using a bucket of water rather than running a garden hose constantly.**