

Water Conservation Tips

April is Water Conservation Month. This is a time to “reflect” on what we can do to help promote saving water while at work as well as at home. Additional information concerning what you can do to participate in the effort is available at: <http://www.floridaswater.com>

Sometimes people have the misconception that water is “free.” As we all know, that is not true. Be sensible. The Earth might seem like it has abundant water, but in fact only one percent of all water on the planet is available for humans. Buy fixtures and products that are water efficient – you can use less water to get the same job done just as well. When you go shopping, look for the WaterSense label to find water efficient products.

There are several things that we can do to reduce water consumption and the associated costs. I have listed a few of those opportunities below:

- Repair leaky faucets promptly. One faucet leaking one drop per second can waste 2,400 gallons of water a year. That's 13 years worth of drinking water for one person.
- Repair “silent leaks” in the toilet. If food coloring put in the tank ends up in the bowl without flushing, it leaks. Repairing the leak will save up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- The average person uses 80-100 gallons of water per day in the home. The top three uses for water in the home are toilets, bathing and washing clothes.
- Make it a full load! The average washing machine uses 40.9 gallons of water per load. If you're in the market for a new washer, shop for a High Efficiency washer that needs less than 28 gallons of water per load. To achieve even greater savings, wash only full loads or be sure to choose the appropriate load size of the washing machine. As an added bonus, the High Efficiency or “HE” as they are labeled washing machines spin at a much higher RPM than a conventional washer, removing more water out of the clothes and reducing the drying time required.
- Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposer. This saves the energy needed to heat the water, is recommended for the appliances, and aids in getting rid of grease. Grease solidifies in cold water and can be ground up and washed away.
- Don't use the “rinse hold” on your dishwasher for just a few soiled dishes. It uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.
- If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a more water-efficient model.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.

By Cliff Plante
Resource Efficiency Mgr.