

# Water Saving Tips...



## **Garbage Disposal**

A garbage disposal requires a lot of water to operate properly. Use a disposal only when necessary.

## **Dishwasher**

Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.

## **Toilet Flushing**

Avoid using your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Tissues, insects and other things belong in a trash can, not the toilet.

## **Laundry**

Run only full loads in the washing machine. Running the machine when it's full will save you time, energy and water.

## **Bathing**

Take only shallow baths.

## **Brushing Teeth**

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

## **Washing Hands**

Don't let the water run while you are washing your hands.

## **Washing Dishes by Hand**

When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the rinsing sink to one third or one half full, avoid letting the water run continuously in the rinsing sink.

## **Shower**

Limit the time water runs while you're taking a shower. Install a low-flow showerhead.

## **Yard Watering**

Water only when 50 percent of the lawn shows signs of wilt: leaf blades folded in half; blue-gray color and footprints remain on the lawn.



## Daily Water Use at Home



Complete this survey to estimate how much water is used in your home daily.

**Average Use:** Write the number of times that you and your family members do each activity in one day. Then multiply the number for **Water Used** by the **Number of Times** the activity is done. This will give you the number for the **Gallons Used** column.

**Calculated Use:** Record the number of total minutes used for each activity. Then multiply the number for **Water Used** by the **Number of Total Minutes** to find the number for the **Gallons Used** column. Add all the numbers under **Gallons Used** to find the **Total Gallons Used**.

AVERAGE USE			
ACTIVITY	WATER USED	NUMBER OF TIMES	GALLONS USED
Garbage Disposal	4 gallons per minute		
Dishwasher	12 gallons per load		
Toilet Flushing	5 gallons per flush		
Bathing	36 gallons (full tub)		
Laundry	43 gallons per load		

CALCULATED USE			
ACTIVITY	WATER USED	NUMBER OF TOTAL MINUTES	GALLONS USED
Brushing Teeth	4 gallons per minute		
Washing Hands	4 gallons per minute		
Washing Dishes by hand	4 gallons per minute		
Shower	5 gallons per minute		
Yard Watering w/ Hose	9 gallons per minute		
<b>Total Gallons Used:</b>			

Discuss with your family ways to conserve water at home. Write two of the ways on the lines provided. Decide how you will help each other practice your new habits. Share ideas with your classmates.

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For additional information about our water resources, please contact the Communications Department of the Southwest Florida Water Management District at 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4757, or visit our website at [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org).

## **OTHER RESTRICTIONS (APPLIE TO ALL WATER SOURCES) Florida Administrative Code 40D-21**

### **New Lawns (Sod, Plugs & Other Turf grass Material)**

**New turf grass may be watered for a 30-day total establishment period.**

- From 1 to day 15, new or replacement turf grass may be watered every day of the week.
  - From day 16 to day 20, new replacement turf grass may be watered 3 days per week.
- Even addresses only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
  - Odd addresses only on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
  - Only during authorized hours, from 12:01am or 6:00pm to 11:59pm.
  - Isolated to new lawn area only.
  - Exemption begins on the day of installation.
  - On the day of installation, new turf grass may be irrigated once without regard to the allowable watering times.
  - An entire zone of an irrigation system may be used if the zone waters an area that contains at least 50% new turf grass material.
  - Partial zone or dispersed plantings shall be watered by some other, more targeted means of supplemental irrigation.

### **New Landscaping (Plants & Shrubs)**

**New plant materials may be watered for a 60 day total established period.**

- From day 1 to day 30, new landscape may be watered every day of the week.
  - From day 31 to day 60, new landscape may be watered 3 days per week.
- Even addresses only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
  - Odd addresses only on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
  - Only during authorized hours.
  - Isolated to new plant area only.
  - Exemption begins on the day of installation.
  - On the day of installation, new plant material may be irrigated once without regard to the allowable watering times.
  - An entire zone of an irrigation system may be used if the zone waters an area that contains at least 50% new plant material.
  - Partial zone or dispersed plantings shall be watered by some other, more targeted means of supplemental irrigation.

### **Pressure Washing**

- Pressure washing for preparation for painting or maintenance is allowed.
- Annual pressure washing is allowed as part of a planned maintenance program to maintain a warranty or prevent a "slip and fall" hazard.

### **Trees, Shrubs, Flowers & Vegetables**

Hand watering is allowed with a shut-off nozzle or other water efficient device. Restricted to before 8am or after 6pm.

### **Lawn Chemicals**

Irrigation to water-in necessary lawn chemicals is not restricted when required by the manufacturer or when required by law. Chemical applications shall be watered during authorized watering hours and on regularly designated irrigation days when possible.

### **Low-Volume Irrigation Devices**

Landscape (groundcover other than lawn) may be irrigated on an as-needed basis without regard to the normally allowable watering days if Low-Volume Irrigation technology is used. Restricted to before 8am after 6pm.

### **Irrigation System Testing & Repair**

May be operated for cleaning and maintenance with an attendant on site – no more than once per week and one test should not exceed 10 minutes.

### **Fountains, Waterfalls & Artistic Water Features**

May be operated as necessary when it also provides a necessary water quality benefit.

All other outdoor aesthetic uses shall be limited to four hours a day the user shall post the normal hours of operation for the aesthetic use.

**Vertical Mowing: (Verticutting)** May only receive two extra watering: immediately upon removal of the thatch and then one week later to water-in a complete fertilizer.

No special or extra watering is allowed for overseeding an existing lawn.

### **Wasteful & Unnecessary Use of Water**

The following wasteful and unnecessary water uses are prohibited:

- Allowing water to flow from an unattended hose.
- Hand watering a lawn on a restricted day or more than once a day, except when used for spot treatment.
- Hosing-down a driveway or solid surface when a dry method could be used or hosing down a structure when a method could be used. Allowing water to flow from a broken sprinkler head, outdoor faucet, malfunctioning plumbing or irrigation system after receiving verbal or written notice.

**IT'S A DROUGHT BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, CONSERVE WATER!**