Only 2.5 percent of the world’s water is fresh water, and less than 1 percent of the fresh water is usable. Florida’s growing population is putting greater stress on this essential -- and limited -- resource.

Using water wisely now means saving money on water bills and protecting the water supply for future generations.

**Sources of Additional Information**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
[www.dep.state.fl.us/water](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water)

Florida’s Water Management Districts  
[www.myflorida.com/directory](http://www.myflorida.com/directory)

Clean Water Action  
[www.cleanwateracton.org](http://www.cleanwateracton.org)

Ground Water Protection Council  
[www.gwpc.org](http://www.gwpc.org)

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If you have questions, call the Florida Public Service Commission’s Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at 1-800-342-3552, fax questions to 1-800-511-0809, or contact the FPSC via e-mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us.

See our Internet home page at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com).

Or write:
Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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**More Tips Inside**

- **Surface water sources** include lakes, rivers, and the managed canal systems.
- Florida has a total water area of 4.2 million acres.
- The small triangle is a low-flow indicator. To check for leaks, turn off all the faucets inside and outside the house. Inspect the water meter. If the low-flow triangle is moving, water is flowing through the meter, indicating a leak in the system.

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**Safer, more efficient use of Florida’s water resources:**

**Florida Water Facts**

- Florida’s average daily use of water is 175 gallons per day (compared to the national average of 110 gallons per day.)
- About 90 percent of Florida’s 18 million residents get their drinking water from public supplies.
- About 62 percent of the water used comes from the Florida aquifer system; 17 percent comes from the Biscayne aquifer.

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**Leaky faucets can waste 20 gallons per day.**

**Water meters are reset after each meter reading.**

**The water meter is usually housed in a box in the ground in front of the residence.**

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**Check pipes for leaks as part of basic maintenance.**

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**Insulate your water heater and water pipes**

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**Check for leaks.**

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**Check pipes for leaks as part of basic maintenance.**

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**Fixing a leak in the system.**

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**Protecting the water supply.**
Dispose of tissue, insects, and other waste in the trash.

Check tank for leaks.

If the handle sticks in the flush position, water runs constantly. Replace or adjust the handle.

Wash clothes with full loads and cold water to save water and energy.

Install an instant water heater on the sink so the water doesn’t need to run while heating up.

Use the dishwasher with full loads.

Use less water for baths. A full tub uses 35-50 gallons.

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable scraps.

Install soaker hoses or drip irrigation for flower beds and shrubs.

Running the tap water for 2 minutes wastes 3-5 gallons of water.

Top loading washers use about three times as much water as front-loading washing machines.

Each toilet flush uses 5-7 gallons of water. Replace older models with high efficiency toilets that use less than 2 gallons per flush.

A pinhole-sized leak wastes 170 gallons a day.

Lawn

Lawns only need about a half inch of water at a time.

In spring, water once every 3-5 days.

In summer, water once every 6-7 days.

In winter, water once every 10-14 days.

Watering in the morning minimizes evaporation and waste. Watering in the evening is the next best alternative.

Avoid watering on windy days.

Reduce fertilizer use because fertilizers increase the need for water.

Higher grass is more drought resistant.

Raise the lawn mower blades to at least three inches.

Check sprinkler systems regularly to make sure they are operating correctly.

OUTDOOR TIPS

Collect water from the roof into a rain barrel.

Landscape with Florida-friendly, drought tolerant plants, trees, and grasses.

Turn water off at the spigot to reduce leaks. Place a shut-off nozzle on the hose to control flow.

Group plants together based on similar water needs.

Mulch to retain moisture and reduce weeds.

Use a sprinkler timer.

Buy a rain gauge.

Install soaker hoses or drip irrigation for flower beds and shrubs.

Watering with a hose uses 10 gallons per minute.

Use rainwater for watering landscape plants.

Make sure water from the sprinkler falls on grass and shrubs, not on paved areas.

Know your local area weather patterns. A strong rain can eliminate watering needs up to two weeks.