

# Saving Water INDOORS



# Saving Water Indoors

Did you know the average west-central Florida resident uses about 104 gallons of water each day? Therefore, we need to save water as much as possible. You can reduce your water consumption by taking just a few simple steps inside your home.

## *Let's start with these tips while* **In the Kitchen**



- Operate the dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Scrape, don't rinse, your dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- Buy the most water-efficient model when purchasing a dishwasher.
- Use your garbage disposal sparingly and start composting your kitchen waste.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave rather than under running water.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap while you wait for cool water to flow.
- Avoid letting the water run continuously while washing dishes. Instead, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the rinsing sink to one-third or one-half full.

In addition to the kitchen, the bathroom is another area inside the home that uses water. More specifically, showering is one of the top uses of residential water in the United States, representing approximately 17 percent of indoor water use. That adds up to more than 1.2 trillion gallons of water each year!

*Follow these tips while*  
**In the Bathroom**



- Take showers that are five minutes or less.
- Turn off the water in the shower after you wet yourself down and while you lather up. Then, turn the water back on to rinse off the soap.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Avoid using hot water when cold water will do.
- Use less water for bathing. Close the drain first and then fill the tub only one-third full. The initial burst of cold water will be warmed by the hot water as the tub fills.
- Flush less — remember the toilet is not an ashtray or wastebasket.

The laundry room is another area inside the home where you can save water.

*Try these tips while*  
**In the Laundry**



- Select the minimum amount of water required per load, if your washer has a variable setting for water volume.
- Operate the washer with full loads only, if the load size cannot be set.
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads since normal and permanent press wash cycles use more water.
- Check hoses regularly for leaks.
- Pretreat stains to avoid rewashing.

There are so many ways to save water. Here are some additional tips to help conserve.

## Additional Tips



- Insulate your water pipes to get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.
- Avoid installing a water-to-air heat pump or air-conditioning system. Newer air-to-air models are just as efficient and do not waste water.
- Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running only the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness. Turn off softeners while on vacation.
- Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.
- Replace leaky drain plugs in sinks and bathtubs.

Fixing leaks and installing a few inexpensive water-saving devices in your home could save you up to 20,000 gallons of water each year. For more information on how to identify and fix leaks, visit

[WaterMatters.org/FixIt](http://WaterMatters.org/FixIt) to view how-to videos, and download or order the *Fix It for Less* brochure.



## Tired of pouring water and money down the drain?



*Watch the monthly savings add up when you use these easy tips.*

*Savings estimates based on a family of three.*

### *Save up to...*

**175** gallons per month

Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when full.

**250** gallons per month

Rinse fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water instead of under running water.

**390** gallons per month

Replace your conventional clothes washer with a new water-efficient model.

**675** gallons per month

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.

**690** gallons per month

Install water-saving showerheads and limit showers to five minutes.

**870** gallons per month

Replace older toilets with new low-flow models.

## **Southwest Florida Water Management District Offices**

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**Southwest Florida**  
*Water Management District*



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