

## HOME WATER USE SURVEY – BACKGROUND INFO.

### WATER CONSERVATION GUIDE from [www.florida-water.com](http://www.florida-water.com)

We must work together to preserve Florida's water. Water may be one of the most under appreciated natural resources we have because it is always there when we want it. Florida has more water in its *aquifers*—which are underground cavern-like holding tanks—than most other states. But Floridians use more water per capita than residents of any other state except California.

Here's the problem: Our underground water supply is not spread evenly across the state. The places we need it the most (for example, the most populated areas) are exactly the places where we have the least amount of water. Also, when it doesn't rain for a long time, salt water creeps into the fresh water supply and destroys it. This is called *salt water intrusion*, and it happens because Florida is surrounded by and floats on salt water.

When you add an ever-increasing demand and the occasional *drought* or industrial *landfill*, it's easy to see that our underground water levels are at the lowest they've ever been, and Floridians need to get used to the idea of conserving water. *Conservation* is easy. Remember this statistic: more than 70 percent of indoor use occurs in the bathroom, and more than 20 percent of it occurs in the kitchen and laundry room.

ACTIVITY	NORMAL USE	CONSERVATION USE
Shower	25-50 gallons (5-10 gal/min.)	2 gal/min (low-flow device) 5 gallons (wet down, soap up, rinse)
Tub Bath	36 gallons (full)	18 gallons (half-full) 10-12 gallons (low level)
Toilet Flush	5-7 gallons (regular)	1.1 or 1.6 gallons ~3 gallons (regular tank displacement devices)
Brushing Teeth	5 gallons (running water)	1/8 gal (wet brush rinse briefly)
Hand Washing	3 gallons (running water)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Shaving	3-5 gallons (running water)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Dish Washing by hand	20 gallons (running water)	5 gallons (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Dishwasher	15 gallons/use	Use only when full
Washing Machine	55 gallons/use	Use only when full

## **INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION**

- Install a low-flow toilet or tank water saving device and save as much as five gallons of water a day.
- Install a low-flow showerhead and save as much as 86 gallons of water a day.
- Install a sink aerator and save eight gallons of water a day.
- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth and save four to 10 gallons of water a day.
- Fix your leaky faucet and save as much as seven gallons of water a day.
- Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full. You can save as much as 15 gallons per load for the dishwasher and 55 gallons per load for the washing machine.

## **OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION**

- Don't water your lawn for more than a half-hour at a time or 45 minutes once a week, and only if it doesn't rain at least one inch. Water in the cooler hours, before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m. If your water management district has water restrictions in place, make sure you follow them.
- Protect natural landscape moisture by cutting your grass at the highest setting (up to 3 inches) on your mower. Taller grass protects the root system by helping to shade it.
- Rake or sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off.
- Landscape your yard by using drought- and salt-tolerant plants which are native to Florida.

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The average Floridian uses 175 gallons of water each day— about 65 more gallons per day than the average American. What do you do with your 65 additional gallons? Do you drink more, do more laundry, wash your car more? The answer is likely to be all of the above and more. Surveys show that 80 percent of Floridians believe water conservation is critical, yet they continue to use nearly three gallons of water per hour more than the average American.

The average adult needs only 2.5 quarts of water a day to maintain health. With thousands of people moving to our state each month, future demand on fresh water supplies will continue to increase. By following a few simple steps, a typical family can save 50,000 to 100,000 gallons of water each year.

## HOME WATER USE SURVEY - ANALYSIS

### Showers:

How many showers does your family take a day?

A

Approximately how long is each one (# of minutes)? (*Put 6.3 if unsure*)

B

How many baths does your family take a day?

C

### Toilets:

How many times does your family usually flush the toilet each day? (*Put 4 if unsure*)

D

### Brushing Teeth:

How many family members are in your household?

E

How many times per day does each person brush their teeth?

F

### Hand Dishwashing:

How many times a day does your family wash dishes?

G

How long does the water run each time?

H

### Dishwasher:

How many times *per week* does your family run the dishwasher?

I

### Laundry:

How many loads of laundry does your family wash *each week*?

J

### Outside Watering :

How many times *a week* does your family water the lawn?

K

For how many minutes each time?

L

How many times *a week* do you wash cars/boats/driveway?

M

For how many minutes each time?

N

### Other Uses:

Your family also uses water in other ways. LIST HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What would you say is the average daily amount of water used in these activities?

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Your Results

<u>Water Activity</u>	<u>Average usage</u>	<u>Total: day</u> * = week	<u>Total: month</u>
Showers	2 or 5 gal/min	<b>A x B x (#) =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Baths	12 or 18 gal/use	<b>C x (#) =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Toilet flushes	7, 5, 3, 1.6, or 1.1 gal/flush	<b>D x (#) =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Teeth brushing	3 or 1.8 gal/min	<b>E x F x (#) =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Hand dishwashing	5 or 1 gal/min	<b>G x H x (#) =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dishwasher *	15 gallons/use	<b>(I / 7) x 15 =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Laundry *	48 gallons/use	<b>(J / 7) x 48 =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lawn watering *	10 gallons/minute	<b><math>\frac{K \times L}{7} \times 10 =</math></b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Car/Boat/Driveway	10 gallons/minute	<b><math>\frac{M \times N}{7} \times 10 =</math></b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other usage	10 gallons/minute	<b>O x 10 =</b> <input type="text"/> <b>x 30 =</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total gallons of water used each <b>day</b> ----->		<input type="text"/> P	
Total gallons of water used each <b>month</b>		<b>P x 30</b>	<input type="text"/> Q
Gallons of Water Used in ONE YEAR		<b>Q x 12</b>	<input type="text"/> R

**P / E** = individual water use for each member of the household... \_\_\_\_\_ S

How much do you use, compared to the national average, and compared to Florida's average?