

















Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer Bulletin

E. Leon Jacobs, Jr., Commissioner

WATER CONSERVATION

I'm sure most of you have become aware of how critical water resources are to the state of Florida. I suspect you are also aware of the pressures on those resources driven by significantly greater demand for water and by shortages in replenishment of water resources due to weather. Therefore, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has come up with several ways for you to conserve Florida's supply of potable water. As you read through these tips to save water, you will notice that most are very practical, while others utilize new technology. Nevertheless, all will help to ensure an adequate water supply for you and your family.

-  Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or garden.
-  Make sure your home is leak-free. Check your water meter a few hours before, during and after a time you are certain that no water is being used. If the meter reading has changed, then you know you have a leak.
-  If you mow your lawn, raise the lawn mower blade at least three inches, or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn -- which means you will need to water it less.
-  Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Set the water level for the size of load you are using.
-  When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow moving stream from the faucet.
-  Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom or leaf blower; using a hose can waste hundreds of gallons of water!
-  Use mulch in plant beds to control weeds and retain moisture.
-  Insulate water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.
-  Take short showers instead of baths. Baths can use 30 to 50 gallons of water. Showers use only 5 gallons of water per minute, less if a constrictor is installed. Seven-minute showers can save you up to \$60 per person, per year in hot water costs, compared to 15-minute showers.
-  Don't let the water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for the water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
-  Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn sprinklers off.
-  If you have a well at your home, check your pump periodically. Listen to hear if the pump turns on and off while your water is not being used. If it does, you have a leak.
-  Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
-  Conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because someone else is footing the bill, such as when you are staying at a hotel.

Call the PSC at **1-800-342-3552** for a free copy of our "**Conserve Your World**" brochure. This brochure outlines some helpful ways to conserve energy in and around your home. This brochure is available in English and in Spanish, and we also have other water conservation and energy saving brochures available. You may contact us by e-mail at contact@psc.state.fl.us, or visit our Internet home page at <http://www.floridapsc.com>.



E. Leon Jacobs, Jr. is a Florida Public Service Commissioner. The PSC sets the rates utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 36 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately-owned.