



Consumer Bulletin

Lila A. Jaber, Chairman



WATER CONSERVATION

Florida depends on a clean and ample supply of water. Therefore, water conservation is a top priority in our state. There are many ways to conserve and save water; some involve common sense, while some are more sophisticated and utilize new technology. Still, all are essential to ensuring an adequate supply of water for you, your family and the many that visit our state annually.

Recently, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary David Struhs said that, "the society that invests in conservation is a society that believes its future is secure."

The PSC has worked closely over the years with the state's five regional Water Management Districts and the Department of Environmental Protection to assist in Florida's water conservation efforts. As Chairman of the PSC, I am aware that water conservation and supply issues have become more visible in Florida over the last decade as specific regions of the state have faced water shortages and usage restrictions.

Florida must and can do more to use water efficiently. The following are a few ideas to help you be a part of our water conservation initiative.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- ◆ Water your lawn during the coolest hours of the day. The sun will not evaporate the water as quickly as in the afternoon. Also, do not water during windy conditions.
- ◆ Use a sprinkler timer when watering lawns or plants. If you don't have one, use the kitchen timer.
- ◆ When using water outdoors, let water sink in your lawn slowly. Water applied too quickly runs off.
- ◆ Make sure all the water from sprinklers falls on your grass and shrubs, not on paved areas.
- ◆ Wash only full loads in your dishwasher. Automatic dishwashers use 20 gallons of water per cycle regardless of load size.
- ◆ Don't use running water to thaw meat or frozen foods.
- ◆ Use the proper load setting when you use your washing machine.
- ◆ Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. Also, check the toilet for worn-out, corroded, or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed.
- ◆ Take showers instead of baths. Use water-conserving shower heads.
- ◆ Don't leave the water running when brushing your teeth or shaving. With the tap running at full force, shaving uses 20 gallons of water, teeth brushing uses 10 and hand washing uses two.
- ◆ Use mulch in plant beds to control weeds and retain moisture.
- ◆ Rinse your dishes by pouring water over them all at once rather than leaving the faucet running.
- ◆ Repair leaks at faucets – indoors and out.
- ◆ Check your water meter while no water is being used. If the dials are moving, then you have a water leak.
- ◆ Reuse clean household water. Collect water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet or showerhead. Use this to water your houseplants. Do the same with water used to boil eggs or steam vegetables.
- ◆ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- ◆ Please visit the Department of Environmental Protection's Web site at www.dep.state.fl.us for more information on water conservation.

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

Lila A. Jaber is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. The PSC sets the rates utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 35 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately owned. Chairman Jaber is also a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the state chair of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services.