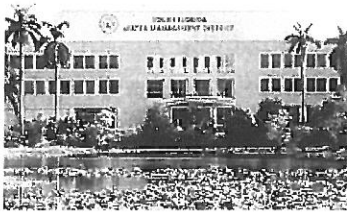


March 2011



just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Landscape Irrigation Restrictions

For Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, the Reedy Creek Improvement District, and Lee County except within the City of Cape Coral

- Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted.

Existing landscaping

- Watering is not allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **odd**-numbered street addresses may water lawns and landscapes on **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **even**-numbered street addresses, no street address or irrigate both even and odd address within the same zones, including multi-family units and homeowners associations, may water lawns and landscapes on **Thursdays** and **Sundays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- For the most efficient use of water, residents should avoid irrigating during both time periods on the same day.

New landscaping, sod or other plantings

- New landscaping can be watered without regard to restrictions on the first day it is installed.
- Landscaping that has been in place from **2 days to 30 days** can be watered on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and/or Sundays** during the hours allowed for regular landscape irrigation.
- Landscaping that has been in place from **31 days to 90 days** can be watered on **Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays** during the hours allowed for regular landscape irrigation.
- Additional watering days can only be used to benefit new landscaping. An entire irrigation system zone may only be watered if it contains at least 50 percent new landscaping.

Applying lawn maintenance products

- Landscape irrigation for watering-in fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides is allowed for one application unless the need for more than one application is stated in the directions specified by the product manufacturer.
- Watering-in is allowed only during established watering days and times unless a professional licensed applicator has posted a temporary sign with the date of the application and the date of needed watering-in.



South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045 in Florida
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Frequently Asked Questions

- Restrictions apply to all sources of water for irrigation including wells, canals, ponds and lakes.
- Using a watering can or hand-watering with a hose and attached adjustable spray or trigger nozzle is allowed.
- Drip, bubble and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used anytime. Any low-volume system should not produce water runoff.
- Landscape irrigation systems may be operated once a week during restricted days and/or times for cleaning, maintenance and repair if an attendant is on site in the area being tested. Testing should not exceed 10 minutes per zone.
- Car, boat and other vehicle washing is allowed. Always attach an adjustable spray or trigger nozzle to the hose and wash vehicles over a non-paved, grassy or porous area.
- Residential and commercial water restrictions are mandatory and are enforced by South Florida Water Management District staff, local governments and law enforcement agencies. Residential fines vary by municipality, but typically range from \$25 to \$125 for a first offense. Civil penalties for violations of restrictions by District permittees and commercial users begin at \$1,500 and can increase depending on the severity of the violation.
- Violations of water restrictions may be reported to local law enforcement or city/county zoning and code enforcement agencies. Both have the authority to issue warnings and citations that can lead to fines. If you choose to notify your local law enforcement agency, please call their non-emergency number.
- Variances from restrictions that may allow you to change your watering days and/or times can be applied for through the South Florida Water Management District. The application form and instructions are online at: www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch. Applications will be reviewed by South Florida Water Management District staff, and approval or denial is based on criteria listed in the Water Shortage Plan Rule. Water restrictions must be observed while a variance application is under consideration. For more information call (800) 432-2045.



splash!

quick facts on...

50 Ways To Be Water Smart

HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE FLORIDA'S LIMITED WATER SUPPLY

The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

NOTE:

Florida's lifestyle depends on a clean, ample supply of water. You can help conserve this limited resource by using these commonsense tips at home. It's important that we all do our part.



Saving Water Outdoors

1. Use a rain gauge to measure how much water your lawn receives. South Florida lawns typically need only $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water each week.
2. Irrigate no more than once a week in the winter or twice a week in the summer.
3. Turn off sprinklers when it rains. All automatic sprinkler systems installed since 1991 must have a rainfall shut-off device, according to Florida law. The device overrides the sprinkling system when it rains.
4. Use Florida-friendly and drought-tolerant plants in your landscape. These plants do not need as much water as other varieties and are more likely to survive in a dry period.
5. Irrigate during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speeds are the lowest. This reduces water loss through evaporation.
6. Position sprinklers to put water on your lawn and landscape, not onto paved areas nearby.
7. Install and use timers on all irrigation systems and portable sprinklers to prevent overwatering.
8. Check and maintain sprinkler systems and timing devices so that they operate properly.
9. Install low-flow irrigation systems that apply water directly to plant root zones. This includes drip, bubble and micro-jet systems and soaker hoses.
10. Collect rainwater from rooftop gutters in a rain barrel or cistern. Use the stored water during dry periods.
11. Adjust your mower blade to leave the grass 3 inches high when you cut the lawn. Taller grass encourages deeper root growth, shades the root system and holds soil moisture.
12. Keep the mowing blade sharp to reduce stress on your lawn.
13. Use mulch in plant beds to retain moisture, reduce evaporation and discourage weeds that compete with plants for water.
14. Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water. If you use fertilizer, choose one containing 2 percent or less phosphorus.
15. Apply fertilizer using smaller applications rather than a large, single application. Follow instructions on the label. The label's the law.
16. To prevent fertilizer spills, use a tarp under the spreader when filling or emptying it. Sweep any spilled granular fertilizer onto the grass. Never hose it off.
17. Postpone fertilizing when more than 1 inch of rain is expected.
18. Use a broom or leaf blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris off your driveway or sidewalk.
19. Attach to your hose an automatic or self-cancelling nozzle that can adjust water flow from the hose to a fine spray. Always turn water off at the faucet, instead of at the nozzle, to avoid leaks.
20. Check connectors on garden hoses and household appliances, such as dishwashers and clothes washers, to make sure that plastic or rubber washers are in place. Washers prevent water from leaking at the hose connection.

21. Do not leave hoses unattended. More than 600 gallons of water can flow from an open garden hose in one hour.

22. Avoid purchasing recreational toys that require a constant stream of water.

23. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass or other non-paved surface and use a hose with an automatic or self-cancelling nozzle.

24. Avoid installing fountains or other ornamental water features unless they use recycled water. Properly adjust them so that water doesn't fall outside of the catch basin.

In Your Home

25. Repair dripping faucets by replacing the washers inside. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.

26. Retrofit all household faucets with high-efficiency units that use 1 gallon of water per minute or less.

27. Replace older toilets with low-flow models that use 1.6 gallons of water per flush or less. Older models may use up to 5 gallons of water per flush.

28. Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If it is leaking, colored water will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. Flush the colored water immediately to avoid staining the bowl.

29. Replace or adjust the toilet handle if it frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly.

30. Install a toilet dam or displacement device, such as a filled 16-ounce plastic water bottle, to reduce the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure that it does not interfere with other parts in the tank or bowl. Other devices are available at hardware and home centers. Do not use a brick.

31. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow version using 2 gallons of water per minute or less. Older showerheads may use up to 5 gallons of water per minute.

32. Take shorter showers. When taking a shower or washing your hair, turn water on to get wet; turn it off before lathering; then turn water back on to rinse off.

33. Catch excess water in the shower with a bucket and use it to irrigate indoor plants.

34. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only for full loads. Scrape – don't rinse – dishes before loading.

35. Store drinking water in the refrigerator, and heat water on the stove or in a microwave. Don't let water run from the tap to get cold or hot water.

36. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator, or use the defrost setting on your microwave. Don't thaw food under running water.

37. Compost kitchen food waste. Kitchen sink disposals require much more water and energy.

38. Install an instant hot water heater on the kitchen sink and insulate water pipes.

39. Cool your home with an air-to-air system. Newer models are more efficient and use less water than heat pumps and air-conditioning systems.

40. Turn off the faucet after wetting a toothbrush, razor or washcloth. Turn the faucet back on when you are ready to rinse.

41. Install water softening systems only when necessary. Turn softeners off when you leave for vacations.

42. Check and properly maintain any well pumps. A well pump has a leak if it turns on and off while water is not being used.

43. Avoid unnecessary toilet flushes. Dispose of tissues, insects, medicines and other waste in the trash.

General Water Saving Tips

44. Follow community water restrictions and conservation guidelines. Private well users must also comply.

45. Report broken pipes, open hydrants, free-flowing wells and other water losses to the property owner, local authorities or water management district.

46. Use the services of businesses that conserve water, including restaurants that serve water only upon request.

47. Support projects that increase the availability of reclaimed waste water for irrigation and other uses.

48. Support programs that promote water conservation among tourists and the businesses that serve them, such as WaterCHAMP and Green Lodging.

49. Conserve water when you are staying at a hotel by requesting fewer replacement towels and sheet changes.

50. Do something every day to save water. Every drop counts.

For MORE water conservation information and materials, visit us on the Web at www.savewaterfl.com



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sfwmd.gov
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 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin/Naples
 239-263-7615

Broward
 954-713-3200

Florida Keys
 305-453-1275

Lower West Coast
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie
 772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100

Miami-Dade
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300

Okeechobee
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200

Orlando
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250

Palm Beach County
 561-682-6000 or 800-432-2045