

Tips to Conserve Water

Indoors

- Don't run the water while brushing your teeth.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily for tissue paper, insects, etc.
- Compost food scraps instead of using the sink disposal.
- Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or microwave instead of running water.
- Insulate water pipes to reduce heating time.
- Only run dishwashers and washing machines when full.
- Replace bathroom and kitchen fixtures with lower-flow fixtures, look for [WaterSense](#) labeled products.
- [Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.](#)
- Install water-efficient appliances in your home.
- Pour unused drinking water from glasses and pet dishes onto plants instead of down the sink.

Outdoors

- Only water your lawn when it needs it. Look for signs of stress ([turf](#) & [landscaping](#)).
- Use a broom instead of the water hose to clean patios, driveways, etc.
- Use [rain barrels](#) to capture rain water to use in your landscaping instead of drinking water.
- Check your irrigation system regularly to ensure timer is properly set, there are no leaks, sprinklers are spraying turf and landscaping and hard surfaces, and for proper [irrigation methods/design](#).
- Use a spray nozzle on your hose to control water.
- Make sure your [rain sensor](#) is working properly. Test it by turning the irrigation system on and spraying the sensor with the hose. If the irrigation doesn't turn off, the rain sensor may not be working properly.
- [Cut grass](#) at the highest recommended height for the turf species – allows roots to grow deeper and grass blades to hold moisture.
- Choose [waterwise turf and landscaping plants](#) and/or [Florida Friendly Landscaping](#).
- Learn more about conserving water outdoors at one of our landscaping workshops and from the [UF/IFAS Extension Office](#).