

Oakland Saves

The Town of Oakland recognizes the importance of conserving one of our most precious resources, water. As a community, the responsibility to maintain quality stewardship over the resources of which we are daily users begins and ends with us. Taking conscious steps now toward water conservation will not only benefit people today and of tomorrow, but also all of the Earth's inhabitants.

Please use this flyer for helpful tips on ways all the members of your family can help minimize the community's water-use impact.



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Water Conservation Tips



Town of
OAKLAND
Florida

Celebration Among the Oaks



florida's water
it's worth saving

Tips for the Home Savings

1. Conserve your flushes. An average toilet flush consumes three to five gallons of water. Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.
2. Check toilets for leaks. Color the toilet tank water with food coloring. Let the toilet sit for 30 minutes. If the coloring appears in the bowl, then your toilet is leaking and needs repair.
3. Remodeling? Upgrade toilets to "low flush" toilets. Replacing an 18 liter per flush toilet with an ultra low volume 6 liter flush model represents a 70% savings in water flushed.
4. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day.
5. Install "low flow" shower heads and faucet aerators. Pictured is Niagara's Earth Massage Showerhead (1.5 GPM). Switching your shower head to a low flow head can save an average of 2 gallons per minute. An easy way to save water is to take shorter showers.



Tips for the Home Savings continued


6. Avoid running the sink faucet excessively. Shaving and teeth cleaning are the usual suspects for wasted faucet water. Wet your toothbrush and use a glass for mouth rinsing. Similarly, fill the sink with a few inches of warm water to clean your razor, if shaving in the sink.
7. Like bathroom faucets, avoid running the kitchen sink excessively. Clean fruits and vegetables in a stoppered sink of shallow water. Don't allow the water to constantly run if rinsing dishes.



Alternately, fill one basin with hot soapy water and the other with rinse water. For sinks with only one basin, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse the dishes using a spray nozzle.

8. Minimize the use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units. Much water is required for these units to work properly. Additional benefits to using the disposal less frequently include, less solid waste added to septic tanks, less electric power ran, and the more green waste to add to your home composite pile.
9. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle. Alternately, for your nature exploration trips, invest in a Life Straw to safely drink water from rivers and lakes.

Tips for Exterior Savings

1. Take advantage of organic material. Areas that are already planted can be 'top dressed' with compost, mulch, or organic matter to improve its absorption and water retention. 
2. Landscape with drought-tolerant materials. Choosing native plants is an easy first step to reducing water requirements. Typically, native plants will use less water and be more resistant to local plant diseases.
3. Opt for a broom - not a hose - for frequent cleaning of porches, sidewalks, gutters, and driveways.
4. Irrigate your lawn efficiently.
 - Follow State mandated water restrictions
 - Avoid irrigating on windy days
 - Schedule irrigating times to allow for deep soakings. Doing so will encourage the roots to grow deep, rather than shallow. Keeping soil moist allows the water to precipitate through it, as opposed to pooling and eventually evaporating over dry soils.
5. Schedule routine maintenance of your irrigation system. Broken or bubbling sprinkler heads waste water by allowing an abundance of water to escape at one point, thus effectually reducing pressure throughout the irrigation zone. You may find yourself increasing watering times to compensate for your 'thirsty' sod spots.