



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

CITY OF POMPANO BEACH UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

1. Regularly check toilets and faucets for & repair leaks. Many leaks can be fixed by a do-it-yourself kit or calling a plumber.
2. Replace older toilets with a WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilet. Older toilets can use 4 times more water per flush.
3. Wash only full loads, in the clothes and dish washer.
4. For water savings, direct water from rain gutters and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems to water-loving plants in your landscape.
5. Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
6. Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation.
7. Install an aerator on your bathroom or kitchen faucet and save about 1 gallon per minute. An aerator reduces the flow from the faucet, and uses air to maintain good water pressure.
8. Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under watering others.
9. Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting Florida-Friendly Plants
10. Adjust sprinkler heads on steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways
11. Next time you add or replace a flower shrub, choose a lower-water-use plant and save significant gallons per year
12. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants helps them retain moisture, saving water, time and energy
13. Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.
14. Take shorter showers. Each minute you shave off your shower time saves up to 2.5 gallons. You can easily save about 1,000 gallons per year by cutting the time you run the water by just 1 minute. Take this time simply to make sure everything you need is close at hand before you turn the water on.
15. Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before hitting the ground.
16. Hire a qualified irrigation specialist to install your irrigation system and keep it working properly and efficiently.

17. Use a shovel, or soil probe to examine soil moisture depth. If the top two to three inches of soil are dry, it's time to water.
18. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, put ice cubes on top of the soil to give your plants a cool drink of water without overflow.
19. Adjust your lawn mower to height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass.
20. Let your dishwasher do the work. An average dishwasher uses about 10 gallons per load. Running the average faucet for just four minutes uses the same amount of water.
21. Set a kitchen timer when using the hose as a reminder to turn it off. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons per minute.
22. Install a high efficiency showerhead, and you could save about 1 gallon per minute.
23. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
24. For more immediate hot water and energy savings, insulate hot water pipes.
25. Check your pool periodically for leaks.
26. If installing a lawn, select a lawn mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
27. Aerate your lawn periodically. Holes every six inches will allow water to reach the roots, rather than run off the surface.
28. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. Or, wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your grass at the same time.
29. If walking across the lawn leaves footprints (grass don't spring back), then it is time to water.
30. Timing is everything when it comes to irrigation. Set your controller properly based on manufacturers recommendations
31. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy efficient.
32. Let your lawn go dormant (brown) during the winter. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three to four weeks, less if it rains.
33. Look for WaterSense® labeled irrigation controllers.
34. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.
35. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.

36. Remember to periodically check your sprinkler system valves for leaks, and to keep sprinkler heads in good shape.
37. Learn where the shut off is on your irrigation system in case of rain or leaks.
38. If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
39. Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than under-watering.
40. Don't overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing.
41. Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.
42. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways, and save water every time.
43. Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You can save up to 100 gallons with each car wash.
44. Once per year is a great time to give your irrigation system a checkup to ensure it is working efficiently.
45. Water dry spots by hand instead of running the whole irrigation system longer.
46. Instead of building a private pool, join a community pool.
47. Water lawns on demand, not on schedule. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) estimates that 57 percent of all household water consumption is used outdoors.
48. Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.
49. Know where your master shut-off valve is located. If a pipe burst, this could save gallons of water and prevent damage.
50. Scrape dishes rather than rinsing them before washing.
51. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those that spray water into the air.
52. When ice cubes are left over from your drink, don't throw out. Pour them on a plant.
53. When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your non-edible plants.
54. Keep a close eye on your water bill every month and watch for fluctuations in consumption; it will keep you conscious of the amount you're using and it will also be an indicator for leaks.
55. Install a rain sensor on your irrigation system so you are not watering your lawn in a storm.
56. Don't run the water while you're brushing your teeth- you'll save about 25 gallons a month.
57. Defrost food in the refrigerator- don't run water over frozen items to thaw them.
58. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.

59. When the kids want to cool off, use a sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.

60. Think before you twist that faucet and consider how you may re-purpose the water you use. Water conservation is about awareness – an awareness that will save the environment. It takes an average of 1,800 gallons per day to support the typical American, but you can make a personal choice to drive that number down and leave an effortless sustainable legacy to future generations.

61. If your showerhead can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water- efficient showerhead.

62. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.

63. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up

64. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.

65. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.

66. Turn the faucets off completely after each use. No dripping water.

67. Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more water & energy than may be necessary.

68. Test your rain sensor to ensure it is operable