

## Conserving Water Outdoors

### General Tips

- Don't hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom or blower to clean leaves and other debris.
- Connect a shut-off nozzle to your hose so water flows only when needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet to avoid leaks. This is great for home car washing!
- Use micro and drip irrigation as much as practical and always use separate zones for beds and turf.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter. A single back-flushing with a traditional filter uses from 180 to 250 gallons or more of water.
- Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, most lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter when rain is not present.

### Irrigation Tips

- Water lawns in the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speeds are lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation.
- Don't water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so water lands on plants and shrubs, not paved areas.
- Irrigation is allowed only between 4pm and 10am and is limited to
- $\frac{3}{4}$  inch per application. Irrigation can occur no more than 1 hour per day per zone on permitted days.
- NO IRRIGATION BETWEEN 10AM AND 4PM.

### Irrigation Check List

- Check your rain sensor or soil moisture sensor monthly.
- Install sprinklers that are the most water efficient for use. Example - rotor or spray heads for turf but in different zones and micro irrigation for beds.
- Check irrigation heads weekly for broken or misdirected sprinklers.
- Check irrigation clocks and timers weekly/monthly for changes due to power outages.

## Setting Irrigation Timer

Typically there are four things to remember on all irrigation timers:

- 1. What is the current day and time?
- 2. What days do you want your system to run?
- 3. What time do you want to start watering?
- 4. How long is each station running?

Move through the settings on your controller in a clock-wise direction.

- 1. To program, first slide the "Set Program" (# 1) toggle to the middle, and then start in the upper left corner of your controller and move clockwise through the settings. Start with program A (# 2).
- 2. Set the dial to current time and use the +/- buttons to locate the current time of day. Turn the dial one click to the left and use the +/- buttons to locate the day of the week. You only have to do this once (# 3).
- 3. Turn the dial to the "valve run times" to select a station and use the +/- buttons to enter the amount of watering time for that valve, which sends water to a particular zone in your yard or garden (# 4).
- 4. Turn the dial to start times and use the +/- buttons to select time you'd like your irrigation to begin. You can have three different start times per day, but typically you only need one (# 5).



## Landscaping for Conserving Water

### Landscaping Tips

- Use Florida Friendly drought tolerant plants appropriate for location and soil type.
- Native and Florida Friendly plant species used appropriately will limit water use and maintenance.
- Use micro irrigated or no irrigation landscape beds in yard as much as possible.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- Use trees to provide shade and retain soil moisture.
- Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your turf species or the highest setting on your mower.
- Cut no more than 1/3 of the grass length at one time to encourage deeper root growth.
- Keep mower blades sharp! Dull blades tear grass, and cause it to appear tan and ragged.
- Grass is often your biggest water user so use it only where needed for children or pets to play.
- Use alternate ground covers such as mulch or beds to save on water use.
- Water only when grass shows stress and needs it. Overwatering leads to shallow root systems and promotes weed, fungus, and disease growth.

### Signs Turf May Need Water

- Lawn turning bluish-gray color.
- Lawn showing lingering tire tracks or foot prints.
- The grass should bounce back after pressure, if not it may need water.

## Saving Water Indoors

### Indoor Tips

- Check toilets and faucets for leaks.
- Check your home for low flow toilets, shower heads and faucets.
- Set clothes washer for the appropriate-sized load or operate washer only with full loads.
- Only operate dishwashers with full loads.
- Purchase efficient appliances when it is time to replace older models.
- Purchase a Water Star Certified home or retrofit your home for certification to ensure efficient water use.
- Low-flow toilets use 1.6 GPF and high-efficiency toilets use 1.0-1.28 GPF. Older models may use 4 GPF. Check inside your tank and outside on the bowl for your GPF rating. You may want to purchase a newer toilet to conserve water.
- The older the showerhead the more water it uses, up to 8 gallons per minute. Low-flow showerheads use 2.5 GPM or less.
- Low-flow bathroom faucets use less than 1.5 GPM. Sometimes a new aerator installed can achieve this
- Turn the faucet on all of the way and capture all of the water in a container for 10 seconds.
- Measure the water and multiply the amount by 6 to find the per minute flow.
- If the flow is above 2.5 GPM, install a low flow aerator or replace the faucet
- You will want 2.2 GPM on kitchen faucets

### Washing Dishes and Clothes Tips

#### Dish washing

- Operate dishwashers only with full loads
- Purchase standard size dishwashers that use 6.5 gal per cycle, older models can use 11 gallons per cycle
- When washing by hand do not let rinse water run instead fill rinsing sink 1/3-1/2 full
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#### Clothes Washing

- Set the water level for the appropriate size load or only wash when you have a full load
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled clothes
- Purchase water efficient model when replacing appliance.
- Water efficient washers use between 15-25 gallons per load vs. up to 40 gallons per load that your washer may be using.

## Stop Wasting Water

### Water Saving Tips

- Wash cars on grass instead of driveway..water is used twice
- Don't pour water down the drain when you could apply it to plants or for cleaning
- Store drinking water in refrigerator so you don't have to let the tap run waiting for cool water
- Install instant/on demand hot water in the kitchen so you don't have to wait for the water to heat up
- Replace leaking drain plugs in sinks and
- Bathrooms