



Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer Bulletin

Lila A. Jaber, Chairman



Understanding Water Conservation Is A Priority

Florida is one of the nation's fastest growing states. As our population continues to increase, so too does our demand for water. Our sparkling coastline attracts thousands of newcomers and millions of tourists each year, most of whom migrate to the southern and central coast where our fresh water supply is becoming limited.

In some areas of our state, water requires significant treatment before it is appropriate for human consumption. Coastal cities that need new water supplies to keep up with demand often must either tap into inland water supplies or use alternate resources. Both options are expensive and are guaranteed to drive up the cost of water, thus increasing your water bills. Conservation can delay or perhaps eliminate a utility's need to develop new, and potentially more costly, water supplies. Conservation must become a priority in Florida if we are to protect our precious water resources in the near term and for future generations.

There are a number of simple steps every residential consumer can take to decrease use (which can result in lower bills) and save for the future:

Water Conservation Tips - Every Drop Counts*

It has been estimated that the average Floridian uses approximately 130 gallons of water per day. Here are a few tips to consider for conserving water:

- ◆ Take shorter showers and use less water for bathing.
- ◆ While brushing your teeth, shaving, etc., turn off the water.
- ◆ Operate the dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- ◆ Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of under running water.
- ◆ If you wash dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the finishing sink to one-third or one-half full. Avoid letting the water run continuously in the rinsing sink.
- ◆ Check hoses in the laundry, kitchen and bathroom regularly for leaks.
- ◆ Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.
- ◆ Water your lawn in the early morning or evening. This technique will minimize evaporation and waste. As a sidebar, a hearty rain can eliminate the need for watering up to two weeks.

- ◆ If you have a well at home, check your pump periodically. If the pump kicks on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- ◆ Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.

**Source: State of Florida - Water Management Districts*

Florida Facts - Did You Know?***

The state of Florida produces an array of water supply from many sources. Here are some interesting facts about the amount of water used in Florida:

- ◆ More water is withdrawn and used in Florida than in any other state east of the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Sixty percent of all water used for agricultural irrigation east of the Mississippi River is used in Florida.
- ◆ Florida is more dependent on groundwater – 60% of fresh water use – than any other state east of the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Current demands for public water supplies in South Florida are greater than demands for public supplies in 39 individual states.

****Source: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Water Conservation Initiative Report April 2002*

For more information about water conservation, please contact the Water Management District in your area. The PSC can also assist by providing you with a free copy of its Conserve Your World brochure. For a copy of this brochure, please call the PSC at **1-800-342-3552**. You may also e-mail us at contact@psc.state.fl.us, or visit our Internet home page at <http://www.floridapsc.com>. For more information regarding the report and its implementation process to conserve and protect Florida's water, please contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Water Policy at 850-488-0784, or you may view the report at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/water_policy/docs/April_2002_Final_Report.pdf.

Lila A. Jaber is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. The PSC sets the rates regulated utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 36 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately owned. Chairman Jaber is also a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the state chair of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services.