

Florida Water StarSM

Encouraging water efficiency at home

FAST FACTS

Water-efficient appliances and practices can save a family of four 30,000 gallons of water each year.

Inefficient landscaping and irrigation systems can waste hundreds of gallons of water every week.

The need

In the service area of the St. Johns River Water Management District, the average per-person use of publicly supplied water is roughly 150 gallons per day, or 6.25 gallons every hour. It doesn't take long for the gallons to add up. Inefficient fixtures can use five gallons per minute in the shower and four gallons every time a toilet flushes. In fact, a leaking toilet can waste more than 200 gallons in a single day.

This is why the District created Florida Water StarSM. The program seeks to encourage water efficiency in building new homes and in installing appliances that promote the economic and environmental benefits of efficiency.

A multifaceted approach

The District is building partnerships with groups, such as the University of Florida's Energy Extension Service, to expand the Florida Water StarSM program into a certification program, similar to the federal Energy Star program. The District is

- Developing the certification program for builders and homebuyers to guarantee a minimum level of water efficiency

Florida

WaterSM

- Working to incorporate parts of the certification program into the existing Florida Green Building programs
- Designing a Florida Water StarSM rating system similar to other green building programs
- Forming a system to train individuals as Florida Water StarSM certifiers
- Establishing a network of utilities, contractors and other applicable industries, businesses and agencies to support the program
- Informing homebuilders about water-efficient fixtures and appliances, irrigation and landscaping through a series of workshops

This program helps homeowners save money while preserving the state's water resources. The program seeks to increase the number of new homes developed with water-efficient features — both indoors and outdoors.

Lasting benefits

In the end, homebuilders will be able to offer Florida Water StarSM certified houses, and homebuyers will move into those houses knowing that they made an economically and environmentally responsible decision.

Water use around the house

Fixture	High-efficiency	Post-1994 Low flow (on average)	Pre-1994 High flow (on average)
Shower	2.5 gallons/minute	2.5 gallons/minute	5 gallons/minute
Toilet	1.1 gallons/flush	1.6 gallons/flush	4 gallons/flush
Faucet	1.5 gallons/minute	1.5 gallons/minute	3 gallons/minute
Dishwasher	3.2–6 gallons/cycle	>5 gallons/cycle	20 gallons/cycle
Clothes washer	9–18 gallons/load	>20 gallons/load	48 gallons/load

