

Home Water Use...

A Family Survey



Florida's Water

It's Worth Saving

St. Johns River Water Management District

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This publication is free.

Home Water Use Survey

This survey will tell you approximately how much water your family uses daily.



1. Showers. How many showers does your family take in a day? About how long is each shower?

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number of showers Number of minutes Total shower time per day

2. Baths. How many baths does your family take in a day? A half-full tub is about 18 gallons, a full tub about 36 gallons.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number in family Number of baths Total baths per day

3. Toilet flushes. How many times a day does your family flush the toilet? (The average is four flushes per person.)

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number in family Flushes per day Total flushes per day

4. Toothbrushing. Most family members brush their teeth twice a day for about two minutes each time. Leaving the faucet on while brushing wastes a lot of water. How often does your family brush?

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number in family Number brushes per day Total brushes per day

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Total brushes per day Minutes each brush Total brushing time per day

5. Hand dishwashing. How many times a day does your family wash dishes? About how long does the water run each time?

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Times dishes washed daily Minutes the water runs Total washing time per day

6. Dishwasher. How many times a week does your family run the dishwasher? Answer only if you have one.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}7} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Uses per week Days per week Average uses per day

7. Laundry. How many loads of laundry does your family do each week? Answer only if you have a washing machine.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}7} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Uses per week Days per week Average uses per day

8. Other indoor uses. Your family also uses water indoors in other ways. List some of these:

How much water is used if each family member uses another 5 gallons per day?

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}5} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Number in family Gallons per day Total gallons per day for other uses

9. Lawn watering. How many times a week does your family water the lawn? About how many minutes do you water each time?

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Watering days per week Watering minutes per day Total minutes per week

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}7} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Total watering minutes per week Days per week Average watering time per day

10. Other outdoor uses. Your family may use water outdoors in other ways. Estimate the number of gallons used for each activity:

_____gallons used weekly for _____

_____gallons used weekly for _____

_____gallons used weekly for _____

_____Add to find total gallons used per week.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}7} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Total gallons per week Days per week Average gallons per day

Now figure your family's total water use.

Copy your answers from the previous page into column 3 below.

Where there is a choice, use the "High Flow" numbers in column 2 if your house has older plumbing. If your house was built since 1994, or is retrofitted with low-flow fixtures, use the "Low Flow" numbers in column 2. Multiply column 2 by column 3. Put the answers in column 4.

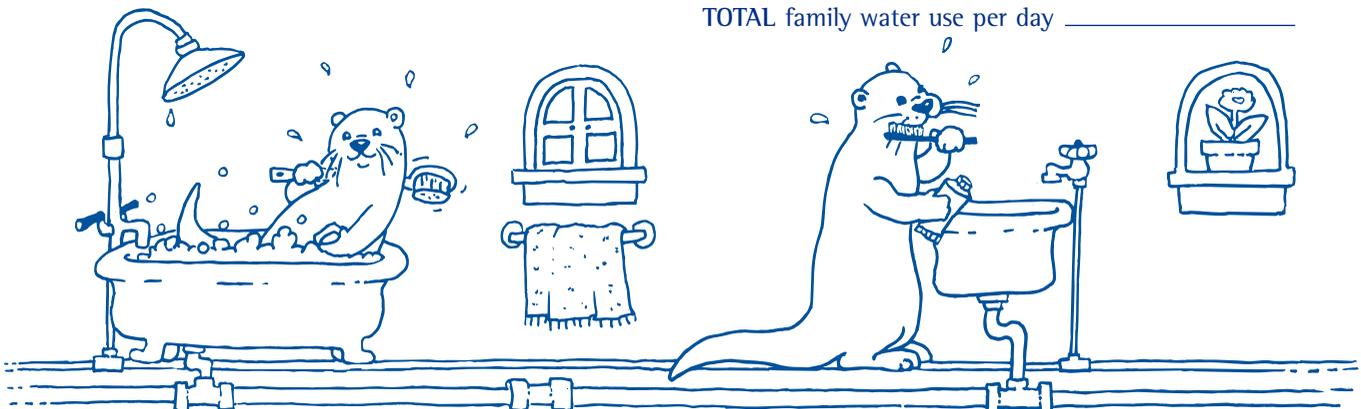
This is the amount of water your family uses daily for each activity.

Next, add the numbers in column 4 to get an estimate of the total gallons of water your family uses each day. Put the answer in the last line of column 4.



Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Water use activity	High flow (average) ↓	Low flow (average) ↓	Minutes or uses per day
1. Showers.....	5 gallons per minute	2.5 gallons per minute.....	X _____ = _____
2. Baths.....	36 gallons (full)	18 gallons (1/2 full).....	X _____ = _____
3. Toilet flushes.....	4 gallons per flush	1.6 gallons per flush.....	X _____ = _____
4. Toothbrushing..... (water running)	3 gallons per minute	1.5 gallons per minute.....	X _____ = _____
5. Hand dishwashing.....	3 gallons per minute	2.5 gallons per minute.....	X _____ = _____
6. Dishwasher.....	11 gallons per use.....		X _____ = _____
7. Laundry.....	48 gallons per use.....		X _____ = _____
8. Other indoor uses.....	Put your answer from the previous page here →		_____
9. Lawn watering.....	10 gallons per minute.....		X _____ = _____
10. Other outdoor uses.....	Put your answer from the previous page here →		_____

TOTAL family water use per day _____



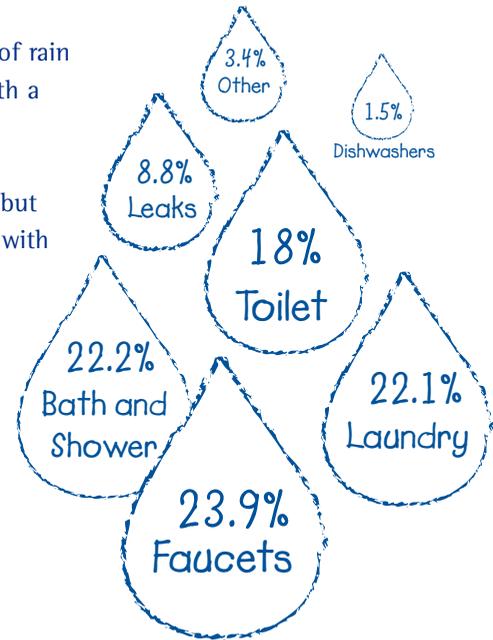
Water conservation saves water, energy and money.

Rainfall cycles vary, but even during rainy periods only a very small amount of rain goes to replenish our underground water supplies. Dry periods, combined with a higher demand for water, can put a strain on our water supplies.

The average adult needs only 2 1/2 quarts of water a day to maintain health, but each person in Florida uses about 120 to 150 gallons of water per day. And with thousands of people moving to our state each month, future demand on freshwater supplies will continue to increase.

That's why it's important to use water wisely (whether there's a drought or not) in our homes, schools and businesses. By conserving water today, we can do our part to keep water pure and plentiful for future generations.

By following a few simple steps, a family of four can save more than 30,000 gallons of water each year.



Indoor water use in a water-conserving home

You can score big by following this water-saving game plan:



Stuff it. In the wastebasket, that is. Toss tissues, insects or anything else you want to get rid of in the trash, not in the toilet. (Each time you flush, that's several gallons down the drain.)

Limit your dribbling. Check for leaks or drips in faucets and toilets. Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth or wash the dishes. When washing the car, watering your lawn, or even bathing your dog, use a hose with a nozzle that automatically shuts off.

Make a clean sweep. Use a broom or leaf blower, not a hose, to clean your driveway or sidewalk.

Be a team player. When helping with chores around the house, remember to water lawns and gardens when it is cooler outdoors – in the early morning before 10 a.m., in the late afternoon after 4 p.m. or at night. Water no more

than two days a week and only when it has not rained. When doing dishes or washing clothes, use only full loads in automatic machines. Use one dishpan for washing and one for rinsing when doing dishes by hand.

Take time out...to remind your friends and family to conserve.

Take water breaks, but don't let the tap water run. Instead, keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.

Don't linger in the locker room. Take shorter showers or fill your bathtub only partly full.

