

Fun Facts About Water

- The most common substance found on earth is water. Water is the only substance found naturally in three forms: solid, liquid and gas.
- Up to 60 percent of the human body is water. The brain is composed of 70 percent water, and the lungs are nearly 90 percent water. About 82 percent of our blood is water, which helps digest food, transport waste, and control temperature.
- In homes without water-saving devices, the largest use of household water is to flush the toilet, and after that, to take showers and baths.
- How much water do you get when it rains? A storm that drops 1 inch of rain on a half-acre lot produces 13,577 gallons of water. That's enough to take a large bath every day for 271 days.
- A leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water a day.
- It takes 2 gallons to brush your teeth, 2 to 7 gallons to flush a toilet, and 25 to 50 gallons to take a shower.
- Water serves as nature's thermometer, helping to regulate the earth's temperature.
- Once evaporated, a water molecule spends 10 days in the air.
- The average American family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times daily.
- About 74 percent of home water usage is in the bathroom, about 21 percent is for laundry and cleaning, and about 5 percent is in the kitchen.
- A washing machine uses about 50 gallons of water.
- It takes 12 to 20 gallons of water to run an automatic dishwasher for one cycle.
- A 10-minute shower can use 25 to 50 gallons of water. High-flow showerheads spray water out at the rate of 6 to 10 gallons a minute. Low-flow showerheads can cut the rate in half without reducing pressure.
- About 25 to 50 gallons are needed for a tub bath.

Volunteers Needed for Great American Cleanup

About two million volunteers in 12,000 communities are expected to join forces this month as part of a nationwide community effort during the Great American Cleanup.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful (KHCB) is coordinating the event locally and expects about 2,500 volunteers to participate during the countywide cleanup on Saturday, April 21. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m. and the cleanup will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at various locations around the County.

Every year, thousands of animals are entangled in or ingest debris, which often results in their death. Your efforts can help save many animals from this fate.

KHCB is recruiting volunteers and local sponsors for the cleanup, which will take place at several locations throughout the county.

More than 2,000 volunteers picked up an estimated 122,128 pounds of trash including bottles, cans and cigarette butts last year. They hope to have a greater attendance this year to make an even bigger impact. This is a great way to clean up your community and take pride in it at the same time. For more information on how to get involved locally, call (813) 960-5121.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org

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Keeping You Informed About County Government

April 2007

April is Water Conservation Month!

Water is our most precious natural resource.

Seventy to 75 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 3 percent of that amount is fresh water - and only 1 percent is available for drinking water.



Fixing broken sprinkler heads is an easy way to conserve water.

You can survive a month without food, but only days without water.

There is no more water on our planet today than there was 3 billion years ago. Although water seems to be abundant in Florida, the resources are not always readily available, and there is often competition between water users and natural resource protection. Lawn watering restrictions are no longer temporary - they've become a way of life.

And still, we take water for granted.

That's why April is recognized in Florida as Water Conservation Month. This year, the designation has even more significance because the Southwest Florida Water Management District has declared our

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Every Drop Counts!

We tend to think that the few gallons of water we can save by changing our habits can't possibly add up to much. But if everyone served by Water Resource Services were to conserve 10 gallons each day, it would amount to more than 3 million gallons a day!

Saving 10 gallons a day is easier than you think.

You can save 2.5 gallons if you cut your shower time by just one minute. Turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth or soaping up your hands, and you can save a gallon a minute. Men who shave with the water running can add another 10 gallons of savings if they merely fill the basin and turn off the tap. Have a short cycle on your automatic dishwasher? Save 4 gallons. And don't forget low-flow toilets, showerheads and sink aerators.



These are ideas that almost everyone can do. People who irrigate their lawns and landscapes have opportunities to save considerably more water.

If everyone just saved 10 gallons a day, that would total more than 1.2 billion gallons a year. And that amounts to a 28-day supply based on today's average daily use. So - every drop counts!

Watering Schedule

It's easy to remember your watering day. Just follow the guide below:

- Monday - addresses ending in 0 or 1
- Tuesday - addresses ending in 2 or 3
- Wednesday - addresses ending in 4 or 5
- Thursday - addresses ending in 6 or 7
- Friday - addresses ending in 8 or 9, locations with no address (common areas, entry areas), and locations with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers).

Water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

If You Need To Report
or Request Work on:

- ✓ Road Flooding
- ✓ Pothole Patching
- ✓ Ditch Cleaning
- ✓ Mosquito Spraying
- ✓ Sidewalk Repair or Construction
- ✓ Street Sign or Traffic Signal Repair
- ✓ Tree Trimming, Mowing or Trash Pickup in the Right-of-Way

Call Public Works
Customer Service at
635-5400

Water Conservation Month (Continued from Front)

region to be in a severe water shortage.

Hillsborough County Water Resource Services encourages water conservation through education and outreach, enforcement of water restrictions, rebate programs and construction of reclaimed water systems. Residents have paid attention, dropping the average daily water use per person from 146 gallons in 1989, to the current level of 103 gallons per person per day.

What else can you do? Keep up the good work! Know and follow the water restrictions for your area. Fix leaks in your home. Install low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucet aerators. Raise the height of your lawn mower. Put a nozzle on your hose. Clean your car at commercial vehicle washes that recycle their water. Install a rain sensor switch on your sprinkler system.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water. Click on the "Restrictions & Conservation" button. Remember, every drop counts. With your help, we can make a difference when it comes to conserving this vital resource.

Replace Your Old Toilet and Get Money Back

Conserving water is as easy as turning the faucet off when you brush your teeth, fixing leaks, and installing water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators. But did you know that your toilet also can save water - and money?

For a limited time, Hillsborough County Water Resource Services has extended its Ultra Low Flow Toilet Rebate program. By installing one of these models, the average household can save about 20,000 gallons of water a year - and start saving money right away with a quick and easy rebate.

Nearly 75 percent of a home's indoor water use is in the bathroom. Older model toilets require 3.5 to 5 gallons of water per flush. A low-flow toilet uses only 1.6 gallons per flush.

Water Resource Services has replaced approximately 77,000 toilets under the rebate program.

Homeowners can receive a \$125 rebate for the first toilet plus \$25 if installed by a licensed plumber; a \$65 rebate plus \$15 plumber's allowance for the second toilet, and a \$40 rebate on the third. Rebates of up to \$100 per toilet are available for toilet replacements in commercial and multi-family buildings.

To qualify, applicants must be Water Resource Services customers, and the toilet being replaced must be a high-volume unit installed before 1993. Homes built after 1993 are required to have toilets that use no more than 1.6 gallons of water.

For more information or for an application, call 288-0259. But hurry - only a certain number of rebates are available for this limited-time offer.

