

## Inside Your Home (Detecting Leaks)

In a typical house, leaky toilets and faucets can waste hundreds of gallons of water each day. And that means unnecessary water and sewer charges. To help you identify and repair leaks, OUC offers the following advice:

- **Make sure no water is running in the house and observe your water meter. If you see the meter's dial or triangle moving, you may have a leak somewhere.**
- **Check toilets for silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank after it has filled. If coloring shows up in the bowl without flushing, you probably have a leak in or around the flapper valve. (Leaky toilets can usually be repaired inexpensively by replacing the flapper mechanism.)**
- **Inspect the water level in the toilet tank. The correct water line is about a half-inch below the top of the overflow pipe. If it is higher, water is being wasted.**
- **Check faucets in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room and outside the house. (Worn washers are the biggest cause of faucet leaks.)**

Always repair leaks promptly. If you can't make the repairs yourself, call a licensed plumbing contractor. For more information about detecting leaks and making repairs, call OUC at **407.434.2256**.

## General Indoor Tips



- **Install water-efficient flush valves in toilets.**
- **Install water-efficient showerheads.**
- **Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets.**
- **Take short showers instead of baths.**
- **Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.**
- **Wash only full loads in dishwasher and clothes washer.**
- **Recycle water rather than pouring it down the drain. For instance, used water from a fish tank is good for watering plants.**
- **Don't flush the toilet just to get rid of trash.**
- **Use the garbage disposal sparingly.**
- **When you wash dishes by hand, fill up the sink with water and turn off the faucet.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WATER  
CONSERVATION — OR TO SCHEDULE A FREE HOME  
ENERGY/WATER SURVEY — PLEASE CALL OUC AT  
407.423.9018**

For other sources of water conservation information, please visit the Web sites for the St. Johns River Water Management District ([www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com)) and the American Water Works Association's "WaterWiser" program ([www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org)).



Orlando Utilities Commission

100 West Anderson Street Orlando, Florida 32801  
[www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)



# WATER CONSERVATION GUIDE

*Save Water and Lower Your  
Monthly Utility Bill*

**OUC**   
The Reliable One®



**MAKE *your* MARK.**

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## Protecting Florida's Water Resources

At OUC, water conservation has always been a top priority. As our region's population keeps growing, demand for water keeps rising. And the supply has a limit.

The water that OUC treats and delivers to customers is drawn from the underground Floridan Aquifer, which is replenished only by a portion of our area's total rainfall. To ensure the long-term viability of this subterranean reservoir, *everybody* must take an active role in conserving water.

When you save water, you not only protect the environment — you lower your monthly utility bill.



To help our customers conserve, OUC has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, which makes it easy to save water and protect the environment by identifying water-efficient ideas and products. For more information about WaterSense, visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)

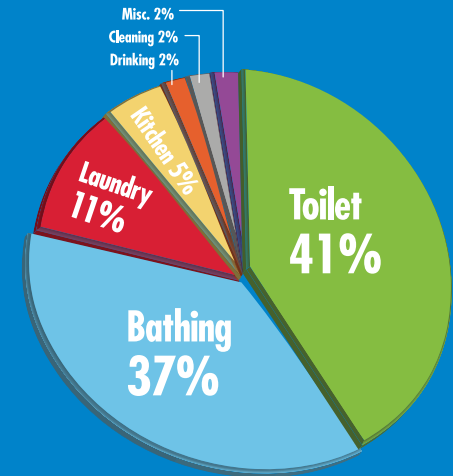
## Outside Your Home (Irrigation)

Irrigation accounts for more than half of Central Florida's total water consumption, so practicing water conservation in your yard is the best place to start.

Always remember the following guidelines:

- Never irrigate between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun evaporates most of the water.
- Irrigate only when your lawn is thirsty. Overwatering promotes shallow root growth, making your lawn more susceptible to insects and disease and less drought tolerant.
- Typically, lawns need watering just two times a week in the summer and less in the winter. Generally, watering times will vary from about 20 to 30 minutes per zone with spray heads and about 30 to 45 minutes per zone with rotors.
- Adjust the timer/controller on automatic sprinklers according to seasonal water demands and weather conditions.
- Turn off sprinklers when it's raining or install a rain shut-off device.
- Avoid watering on windy days.
- Regularly check irrigation systems for leaks and broken sprinkler heads, making repairs promptly, especially before leaving home for extended periods.
- Adjust sprinklers so they water the lawn, not the pavement.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.
- Overfertilizing increases the need for water, attracts insects and puts more stress on grass in the summer. Use an iron-only fertilizer in the summer for nutrient needs.

## Typical Home Water Uses (Irrigation not included)



## General Outdoor Tips

- When washing your car with a hose, always use a spray nozzle to stop water flow between rinsings.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses, repairing any leaks promptly.
- Cover your pool or spa to reduce evaporation.
- Check for pool/spa leaks, making repairs promptly.

\* Local water ordinances should always be observed

