



RIVER FRIENDLY SURVEY

This survey was prepared by students from the Florida Master Naturalists Program to help increase awareness of how each of us affects our limited water resources and what we can do to protect this precious commodity by making more informed choices and living a “river friendly” lifestyle.

Water Conservation – Indoor

As a result of our impending water supply shortages, we must take action by using water much more efficiently. Water conservation is much less expensive and poses much less risk to our river than alternatives like surface water withdrawals. Together, we can conserve water and save our St. Johns River.

Perform the following “water audit” survey on the use of water in your home.

Thanks to the Green Team Project for use of these questions from their Water Audit Survey.

	High Flow	Low Flow	Gallons per Day
How many showers does your family take in a day? How long is each shower?			
[# of showers] x [# of minutes] = [total shower time]	x 8 GPM	2.5 GPM	=
How many baths does your family take in a day?			
[# in family] x [# of baths] = [total baths per day]	x 36 G (full)	18 G (1/2 full)	=
How many times a day does your family flush the toilet? (The average is 4 flushes per person.)			
[# in family] x [# of flushes] = [total flushes per day]	x 4 G/flush	1.6 G/flush	=
How often does your family brush their teeth? (The average is twice a day for 2 minutes.)			
[# in family] x [# of brushes/day] = [total brushes/day] x [2 minutes/brush] = [total brushing time/day]	x 3 GPM	1.5 GPM	=
How many times a day does your family wash dishes by hand? How long does the water run each time?			
[# times dishes washed/day] x [# of minutes] = [total washing time/day]	x 3 GPM	2.5 GPM	=
How many times a week does your family run the dishwasher?			
[# uses per week] ÷ [7 days per week] = [avg. uses per day]	x 11 G/use	5-10 GPM	=
How many loads of laundry does your family do each week?			
[# uses per week] ÷ [7 days per week] = [avg. uses per day]	x 48 G/use	20-30 G/use	=
Your family also uses water indoors in other ways (i.e., hand washing, etc.)			
[# in family] x [5 gallons per day]	-	-	=
Total family indoor water use per day			=

Water Conservation – Outdoor

Over 50% of water usage is typically outside the home, primarily for irrigation. So, this is one of the best places to begin trying to conserve water.

	High Flow	Low Flow	Gallons per Day
Do you water your lawn or plants with a hose?			
[# minutes per day]	x 12 GPM	-	=
Do you wash your car/boat/pet at your home?			
[# minutes spent using hose]	x 12 GPM	-	=
Total family outdoor water use per day			=

The following questions gauge your household participation in “river-friendly” outdoor practices, including landscaping, fertilizing, and irrigating your property. Don’t worry if you answer “no” to any of these questions – there are plenty of easy ways to give your lawn a “river-friendly” makeover!

	YES	NO
Do you use an irrigation system that has a functioning rain shutoff device?		
Do you incorporate native or Florida Friendly plants into your yard?		
Do you know the water needs of the plants in your yard and water them appropriately?		
Do you use cypress-free mulch in your landscaping?		
Do you make use of a rain barrel?		
Do you use "gray" waste water for watering plants or the lawn?		

Taking a cue from the Green Team Project, a Personal Water Reduction goal of a 20% is suggested. Any reduction in water usage will translate into water conservation, a healthier river and lower energy bills for homes connected to municipal water systems.

