

# Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne Utilities Department

## Water-conserving plumbing devices can provide major water savings

Indoor residential water demand has been declining in many U.S. households since the mid-1980s. A 1999 study of residential water use conducted for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Research Foundation found that single-family indoor water use in more than 1,100 homes averaged 69.3 gallons per person per day (gppd), which is 10% less than the indoor use of 77.3 gppd reported in 1984.

Reductions in indoor use stem primarily from steady improvements in the efficiency of plumbing fixtures and appliances. For homes with old, high-volume or leaking fixtures and appliances, installation of more efficient replacements can result in significant water savings.

A typical single-family home uses an average of 69.3 gppd indoors, most of it in the bathroom. Installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances would reduce average use by about 35%.

The best place to start is the toilet. Older, pre-1980s toilets use 5-7 gallons per flush, while new water conserving models only use 1.6 gallons.

Showerheads are another replacement that can add up to big water savings. Older models can use 4 gallons per minute (gpm) or more, while new models can use no more than 2.5 gpm.

Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators can be replaced. Older ones will flow at about 3 gpm, while new ones only flow at 1.5 - 2.0 gpm.

Other appliances to consider replacing with water efficient models are clothes washers

and dishwashers.

Pre-1980s clothes washers use about 56 gallons per load, those from the 1980s to the present use 40-50 gallons per load. However, there are new high-efficiency washers on the market that only use 27 gallons per load or less.

Replacing dishwashers can also achieve significant savings. Older dishwashers (1980-1990) use 14 gallons per load, while water-efficient models can now be purchased that only use 4.5 gallons per load.

### Newsletter change

*This issue is in color for a new look and a new name. Conservation Conversation was first released in 1997 and has grown over the years in content and distribution. If you would like more information or to be added to the mailing list, please call (321) 674-5761.*

## New transfer line in place at water plant



As part of the \$23 million first phase of the Surface Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project, workers from Poole & Kent prepare a 30-inch concrete transfer line for removal to enable new pipe to be installed.

The new piping is for the tie-in to the new water treatment plant. The work was done on September 13 from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m., taking place during periods of limited water demand.



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## P2 Week puts focus on water conservation

By Randy Greer, City of Melbourne Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator and Board Member of the Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable.

National Pollution Prevention (P2)Week is traditionally celebrated the third week of September, and is a time when businesses, citizens, and environmental groups join forces for the common cause of promoting pollution prevention.

Originating in California in 1992, Pollution Prevention Week gained widespread popularity when it became a national effort in 1995.

The statewide theme adopted by the Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable for 2001 is...**Florida's water, conserve and protect it.**

The all-encompassing theme is designed to instill awareness of how our actions can impact the natural resources that we enjoy for recreation as well as sustenance.

Regardless of our occupation or hobbies, our day-to-day activities can impact the natural resources...including Florida's precious water. It is important to realize that the concept of conserving *and* protecting our water resources has to become a lifestyle as Florida's population and industry continues to grow.

It may be hard to focus on water conservation when a tropical storm is dumping inches of rain in your back yard, but the fact is...most of the heavy rain will runoff and not recharge the



## Florida's Water: Conserve it and Protect it

**Pollution Prevention Week 2001  
September 17 - 23**



aquifer. And, when stormwater runs off into surrounding canals and the Indian River Lagoon system, it has the potential to transport pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, and heavy metals into the waters that snook, trout and redfish call home.

In addition to conserving water in the home, we need to be conscious of how we can affect the groundwater and nearby surface waters. Visit [www.flppr.org](http://www.flppr.org) for information on pollution prevention and water conservation.

## Yard waste preparation critical for prompt collection

Yard waste must be placed in appropriate containers and prepared properly in order to ensure prompt collection by Harris Sanitation. Following are some points to remember:

- Yard waste must be cut to proper lengths and placed in containers for collection. Containers must be plastic or metal and not exceed 32 gallons in

capacity and not weigh more than 50 pounds when filled.

- Branches must be cut in lengths of four feet or less. All branches, leaves, twigs, berries, clippings, etc. must be placed in containers.

- Yard waste cannot be placed in plastic bags for collection.

- When placing yard waste at the curb

for collection, do not place it in or on storm drains or in any manner that would obstruct drainage.

- Do not obstruct or conceal fire hydrants with yard waste.

If you would like additional information, please call the City's solid waste/recycling division at 953-6302 or visit the City's web site at [www.melbourneflorida.org](http://www.melbourneflorida.org).