

Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne Public Works & Utilities Dept.

Web sites provide an abundance of water conservation information

For anyone interested in water conservation, two outstanding web sites are available that will answer most question residents might have.

"Florida's Water" is produced by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The City of Melbourne is serving as one of the partners in a four-year long multi-media campaign, producing the web site, along with television advertising, brochures and more.

The site has recently been updated and answers many questions about outdoor water use, especially important as we head into the spring growing season.

Florida's Water It's Worth Saving

Questions answered include:

- How long should I run my sprinklers?
- How often should I water my lawn?
- What time of day should I water my lawn?
- How much water should I apply?

Other features include expert advice from Tom MacCubbin, a University of Florida extension agent who has authored four books, has a regular Q&A column in the Orlando Sentinel newspaper, hosts a radio program and is featured on

local news programs. MacCubbin provides advice on how to properly care for you lawn.

The web site also features a section on water - wise landscaping, a section on sprinkler systems, and also gives indoor water conservation tips.

To find the web site, go to <http://floridaswater.com>.

Another great web site is sponsored by the California Urban Water Conservation Council. The web address is www.h2ouse.org. This interactive site features a home tour.

At the blueprint of a house you can take the tour by clicking on various areas of the house. It has indoor areas -- the bath, kitchen, laundry and garage. You can also take a tour of outdoor areas -- landscaping, pool and spa, patio and water meter.

You can investigate water saving opportunities at each location in the house.

There is also a section giving the top five actions you can do to save water in and around your home.

Another valuable feature on this web site is a water budget



calculator that you can use to find out how much water you are using in your home.

Finally, there is a garden guide where you can find inspiration for beautiful, water-conserving gardens.

Links to both of these web sites are included in the City of Melbourne web site. Go to www.melbourneflorida.org then click on water conservation at the navigation tool on the left. At the bottom of that page you will find the links.



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Keep our water clean by proper pesticide usage and disposal

Pesticides are important to protect our food, families and property from destructive pests. But if they are not disposed of properly they can cause great harm to our surface water and groundwater.

A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that more than two billion pounds of pesticides are applied annually in the United States. The study also found that one-third of the leftovers are discarded down the sink, while two-thirds of all concentrated pesticides are thrown into the trash and end up in landfills. In both cases, these chemicals can soak into groundwater and pollute the water supply.

Following are some ways to use pesticides and dispose of leftover pesticides in a way that won't be harmful to the environment:

- Read and follow the directions on the label carefully.
- If you have to mix or dilute the



Customer looks over the free recycled paint at the household hazardous waste collection center.

pesticide, do it outside but away from storm drains.

- If a spill occurs, clean it up quickly. Don't wash it away. Sprinkle the spill with sawdust or kitty litter, sweep it into a plastic bag and throw it away.
- Never mix or apply pesticides near a wellhead, which serve as direct links to the groundwater.
- Do not store pesticides in places where flooding is possible or in places where they might spill or leak into wells, drains, groundwater or surface water.

To dispose of small amounts of excess pesticides bring them to the Brevard County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. From there they will either be recycled or sent to a permitted hazardous waste management facility. The center is located at the Sarno Landfill and Transfer Station at 3379 Sarno Road in Melbourne. They are open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are also Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Roundups sponsored by

Brevard County. Information about roundups to be held in April is on this page.

Trash Bash April 16

Volunteers can make a big difference in their communities. Take last year's Trash Bash event, for instance, where 119,522 pounds of trash were collected at 32 sites throughout Brevard County.

Volunteers can make a difference again this year's Trash Bash on April 16. If you are a student, it's a great way to earn your community service hours.

There are four Melbourne sites slated for clean up in this year's event. The City will provide captains for two sites in Melbourne. The first is along Nieman Avenue near Westshore Junior/Senior High School in north Melbourne, which is a new site this year. The second site, like last year, is Lipscomb Park in south Melbourne. Other sites are VFW Post 399 on Aurora Road and the Carver Community Center.

Trash Bash will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register, call the City's ECO Division at 953-6302. Registration is not mandatory but is encouraged for more accurate ordering of supplies.

Latex gloves, water and insect repellent will be provided, along with snacks. Volunteers will also be able to purchase a Trash Bash T-shirt for \$6 which is a fundraiser for Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB).

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Roundup Coming Soon

Residents will have opportunities in April to bring hazardous chemicals and old electronic equipment to the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Roundup, sponsored by Brevard County.

Take time to sort through your garage, shed, and under bathroom and kitchen sinks for unwanted or leftover household chemicals. These include automotive fluids, such as motor oil, antifreeze and brake fluid, along with lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, insecticides, pool chemicals, fluorescent lamps, thermometers, thermostats, automotive batteries, rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries, paints and solvents.

Homeowners will also have the opportunity to turn in no more than five home electronic items including computers, monitors, laptops, printers, scanners, fax/copiers and televisions.

The roundup is free to homeowners. Businesses must call EQ Industrial Services at 1-800-624-5302, ext. 231 for disposal and cost information.

The roundups will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the following locations:

Sat., April 2 - Barefoot Bay Community Center, 625 Barefoot Blvd., building A parking lot

Sat., April 9 - DeLaura Middle School, 300 Jackson Ave., east parking lot, Satellite Beach