












It's all connected

Springs-Friendly Landscaping Checklist

Did you know that the choices you make in your landscape and home may be harming springs and rivers miles and miles away? Springs are fed by groundwater from a large contributing area surrounding them called a springshed. Pesticides and fertilizers from our yards can soak into the ground and contaminate our drinking water and springs. Also, the water that comes out of our taps and sprinklers is from the same source that our springs depend upon. Every drop of water we save brings us one step closer to replenishing our springs and rivers.

Here are some great tips to help you conserve water in your every day activities:

-  Look at your water bill every month and calculate your daily water use with our Water Use Limbo Challenge card. Visit AlachuaCountyWater.org for a copy.
-  Eliminate one irrigation cycle per week in the summer.
-  Turn your irrigation system off in the winter.
-  Test your irrigation system rainfall shut-off device to make sure it is working.
 - Wet the sensor using your hose and then manually turn your irrigation system on. If it will not turn on, your shut-off device is working. If your system turns on during this test (or during a rain) then you need to repair your device.
-  Have your irrigation system inspected for leaks every year.
-  Eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides. If fertilizer is absolutely necessary, use one with slow release nitrogen and little to no phosphorus.
-  Consider planting centipede or Bahia grass because they require less water and fertilizer.
-  Contact Alachua County Environmental Protection at (352) 264-6800 to schedule a water presentation for your HOA, church group, or civic organization today.
-  Learn more about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ by contacting the Alachua County Extension Office at (352) 955-2402, or visiting FloridaYards.org.



A toilet that runs until the handle is jiggled can cost you over \$2,000 in wasted water over a year.

A missing sprinkler head can waste over \$700 worth of water every year.

Most of us pay around \$2 for every 1,000 gallons of groundwater we use. If our region has to find an alternative water supply, the price could increase six-fold.



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For more information, visit AlachuaCountyWater.org.