For this reason, it's important to conserve this natural resource.

According to the American Water Works Association, indoor water use accounts for 42% of residential water use.

**TOP 3 HOUSEHOLD WATER USES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallons per person per day</th>
<th>Toilet</th>
<th>Clothes Washer</th>
<th>Shower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changing wasteful habits, plus the proper selection and installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances will enhance indoor water conservation.

**Install water saving devices**
- Ultra low flow toilets
- Low flow aerators
- Low flow showerheads

**Check for leaks**
To detect leaks, turn off all water in home and check the outside meter. Read the meter again in 15 minutes. If it hasn’t moved, you have no leaks. If it has, search them out.

**Repair leaks promptly**
A slow drip can add up to 15 or 20 gallons per day, while a 1/8-inch faucet leak wastes 100 gallons in 24 hours.

**Catch the Conservation Spirit!**

For further information on more efficient water use both in the home and in the landscape, contact:

**Pinellas County Utilities**
14 S. Fort Harrison Ave. • Clearwater, FL 33756 • (727) 464-4000
or visit our web site www.pinellascounty.org/utilities
THE TOILET IS THE TOP WATER USER IN THE HOME

Check for Leaks

A leaky toilet can waste over 200 gallons of water per day! Left unfixed, it can waste over 73,000 gallons of water a year.

To check both the flush valve and the refill valve for leaking, simply put a couple drops of dark food coloring, dark fruit juice or a dye tablet in the tank. Do this when the tank is fully refilled after a flush. Do not use the toilet. Then check the bowl after 20 minutes. If colored water is in the bowl, there is a leak. Depending on the problem, one of the following actions may stop the leak:

Adjustment options for the ballcock/flush-ball valves

1. Bend the end of the float arm to adjust the tank water level to below the top of the overflow pipe.
2. Replace the float ball which may have filled with water.
3. Replace a faulty or corroded float ball shut-off valve.
4. Tighten a loose trip handle by turning the nut counterclockwise (looking from inside the tank).
5. Straighten the control arm so it is free to move up and down without touching surrounding parts.
6. Replace a sticking rod guide or ball rod.
7. Clean a corroded brass valve seat with steel wool or with No. 500 wet-or-dry abrasive paper.
8. Raise the guide arm if it does not allow the flush ball to rise enough for a complete flush. Be careful not to adjust too high, which will prevent the ball from completely closing.

Adjustment options for the modern plastic valves

1. Adjust the sliding pinch clamp on the adjustment rod up to raise the water level or down to lower it. Tank water level should be just below top of overflow tube when toilet has refilled and shut off.
2. Reposition bowl refill tube. If it is out of place, water is routed directly into the tank rather than flowing water into the bowl. The refill tube should aim directly into the overflow pipe but should not reach below water level.
3. Replace defective refill tube with new plastic refill tube.
4. Replace flapper by disconnecting the lift hardware from the trip arm and sliding the flapper up and off the overflow pipe. Install the new unit, reversing directions, and connect the lift hardware back to the trip arm. Cut off excess lift chain or leave dangling if it doesn’t interfere with toilet operation.

Checking and changing a flapper is a snap. For everything you need to know, including which replacement flapper you need, go to www.toiletflapper.org.