

Conservation Measures...

...to Consider Implementing Immediately

- Unplug electronics when not in use.
- Turn off fans when people are not using the room.
- Keep interior doors to unoccupied rooms open.
- Use detergents on clothes and dishes that have the least environmental impact.
- Turn off water during activities such as shaving and brushing teeth.
- Wash clothes at the coolest tolerable water temperature possible.
- Avoid pre-rinsing of dishes whenever possible in order to conserve water.
- Air dry dishes whenever possible in order to conserve electricity.
- Reduce the thermostat setting on the hot-water heater in order to conserve electricity.

...to Consider Implementing this Year

- Install EnergyStar CFL or LED lighting throughout the home.
- Make sure the clothes dryer vent is clear of any debris.
- Wrap insulation around the hot-water heater tank.
- Insulate behind electrical outlet boxes, and cap off ones not being used. Insulating behind electrical outlet boxes reduces air leakage.
- In homes that do not have vents bringing air in and out of rooms, trim a half-inch off the bottom of interior doors that do not have visible clearance, or install louvered doors.
- Maintain unbroken weather stripping around windows and exterior doors.
- Ensure the bathroom tub and sink drains do not leak. Leaking drains cause water to be continuously used during activities.
- Install a clean air-conditioning (AC) filter. Dirty AC filters require more suction and can cause strain on a compressor.

Conservation Measures

to Consider Implementing over the next few Years

- Ensure that properly sized exhaust-vent fans are installed in the kitchen and bathrooms.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Install low-flow toilets/high-efficiency toilets and water fixtures.
- Ensure that air ducts are sealed tightly at each joint. Sealed air ducts reduce air leakage.
- Ensure that attic space is filled with uncompressed insulation that is piled high.
- Install a tankless hot-water heater. Tankless water heaters save electricity by only heating water when needed.
- Ensure the home heating unit is inspected and that it displays an inspection-card history.
- Ensure the electrical panel has its circuits/breakers clearly identified on the panel door.

Tips for Homeowners

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw212>



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10 ways to create an Eco-Friendly and Healthy Home



Do you want to live a lifestyle that supports the environment and creates a healthier home for you and your family?

There are many easy ways to incorporate ideas that support the conservation of natural resources, decrease impacts on the earth and make your home healthier to live in. A little effort goes a long way to create the lifestyle you want, save money and be mindful of health impacts in your home.



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1. Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ffl

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Learn how you can have a beautiful landscape that could save you time, energy and money while protecting our future.



2. Conserve resources

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1320>



Share ideas with family and friends and make a list of those resources that you want to conserve. Is it water? Energy? Fossil fuels? Food waste? Reduced packaging and paper? There are many ways to conserve resources that will fit easily into your lifestyle with a plan.

3. Recycle and reduce waste

www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit

Find out how to recycle or safely dispose of just about anything with the online *A to Z Guide for Recycling & Disposal in Pinellas County*.



4. Buy Green Certified Products

www.greenseal.org

Look for recognized green certifications by a third-party for standards that ensure the third party claim such as Green Seal.



5. Use non-toxic cleaners

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1449>

Not only are you saving money by making homemade cleaners, you are also helping the environment. When making your own products, you can be reassured that your family isn't being exposed to harsh or harmful chemicals. If you want to buy a cleaning product, find a multipurpose one.



6. Improve indoor air quality

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1044>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2014) indicates that indoor air can actually be more polluted than outdoor air. That's because, although some pollutants may come from outside, many of our indoor air pollutants are produced inside the home. These pollutants can come from your home's structure, paint, carpet, furnishings and many other sources inside the home.



7. Keep it clean

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy786>

The way you clean and maintain your home will affect the health of your family, especially children. The incidence of children diagnosed with asthma is increasing. You can help make your home safe and healthy for your children by eliminating or controlling the risks.



8. Reduce pesticide use around the home

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1074>

You must always protect people who live or work in the treated area so they are not exposed to harmful residues. Avoid using pesticides or application methods that might injure non-target animals or plants, or damage property. Pesticide use should not endanger the environment or cause contamination of groundwater, soil, air, or human and animal foods. In addition, you must use pesticides in ways that avoid excessive exposure to any part of your own body.



9. Buy local

www.freshfromflorida.com/

[#Consumer-Resources](https://twitter.com/Consumer-Resources)



Look for fresh produce from Florida at your farmer's market or grocery. It is fresher and has not traveled many miles which uses fossil fuels. Support the local economy and be aware of where products are manufactured.

10. Save energy

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1032>

There are many ways to implement energy savings but remember to always "turn it off." Turning up your thermostat to 78 degrees when not at home is important in Florida when our weather is hot. Use energy efficient bulbs and Energy Star certified appliances. Track your energy and get a home energy audit to identify cost savings from improvements.

