



Waterline News

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STORMWATER IMPACTS: FLOODING

One-way homeowners can protect themselves from financial and personal hardship due to flooding is to purchase flood insurance. Damage from flooding almost always is not covered by homeowners insurance. Flooding is defined as “rising waters”. Therefore, if a home floods, the cost of cleanup is the responsibility of the property owner. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floods have caused more than \$7 billion in losses in the United States in the last 10 years. Even residents who don’t live in flood plains are potentially at risk. In fact, 25 percent of all flood insurance claims are outside flood zones.

Flood insurance is a federally sponsored program. It can be purchased through local insurance agents. It is easy to get, and relatively inexpensive if you do not live in a flood zone. The website, WWW.FloodSmart.Gov is an excellent resource of information on flooding. For example, homeowners can enter their address and determine their flood risk. The website also has information on how to protect your property from flooding.

Remember; do not wait until the last minute to protect yourself. Have a plan. If you take out a flood insurance policy, there is a 30-day waiting period before your policy becomes effective.

Spring Hill Park

Volusia County Water Resources, in partnership with Volusia County Leisure Services, has completed the Spring Hill Park. The project near Beresford Road and Adelle Avenue in DeLand, involved the expansion of an existing retention area to provide better flood protection, and treatment of polluted stormwater runoff. The new facility includes improved landscaping including trees, shrubs and grass. Park amenities include walking paths, playground and picnic areas.



Before



After

Prevent higher bills by helping keep rainwater out of the sewers

Groundwater or rainwater mixed with sewage can increase costs to the water customer by using valuable sewer system and treatment plant capacity. The loss of sewer space can lead to operational problems that could increase treatment costs.

Preventing infiltration and inflow can reduce rising costs. Infiltration and inflow are rainwater or groundwater that enters sewers through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, illegally connected storm drains or open cleanouts.

What residents can do to help

- Look for and check your sewer cleanout. The cleanout is usually a small pipe outside your house, about four inches in diameter, which is used to access the sewer lateral pipe for cleaning. Replace missing or damaged caps so that rainwater cannot get into the sewer line. By keeping the cleanout capped, you also can prevent unpleasant sewer odors and gases from escaping.
- If you live in a low area with a high water table or experience a lot of settlement on your property, have your sewer line checked for cracks, separated joints, or “sags” that could cause entry of rainwater or clogging problems.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs over or near the sewer laterals or main lines. Roots can enter and damage sewers. This allows groundwater and rainwater to enter the sewer and also causes costly ongoing problems with sewer clogging, backups and spills.
- Never try to drain flooded areas by removing the sewer manhole covers in the street or covers from your cleanouts. It is against the law. Please notify Volusia County Utilities at (386)-822-6465 if you observe or know of a nonuniformed person doing this.

KIDS KORNER



How to Save Water!

In this book we've learned how important water is. Plants, animals and people all must have water to live. Without water our planet Earth would be like Mars — nothing could live here.

You may have heard people talk about how fast Florida is growing. They don't mean the size of Florida is growing. What they mean is there are more

people in Florida. There are more people in the same amount of space. And we still have the same amount of water.

What that means is that with more people, there is less water to go around.

Here are some ways you can help save water.



Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth or wash your hands. If you brush or wash for two minutes you use 6 gallons. Turn off the water while you scrub and you use one gallon. You save **5 gallons**.



Take shorter showers. Every minute you spend in the shower you use about 5 gallons. Spend 3 minutes less in the shower. You save **15 gallons**.



Don't use toilets as wastebaskets. Every flush uses about 5 gallons. Throw tissues and bugs in the waste basket. You save **5 gallons**.



Keep water in the refrigerator. If you run water in the sink until it gets cold, that's water down the drain. You save **3 gallons**.



Turn off the hose when you're not using the water to wash a car, fill a pool or water the yard. Five minutes of wasting water from a hose uses about 40 gallons. Don't be a gutter flooder. You save **40 gallons**.

Here are a few more water-saving tips for your family.

- Get an adult to help you fix dripping faucets indoors and outside.
- Water the garden only when it needs it — not more than once a week in the winter.
- Remind your parents to wash full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Make sure your family uses cold water for cooking instead of waiting for it to get hot from the faucet.
- Also tell your parents to be sure your lawn sprinklers don't spray onto sidewalks, streets or driveways.

Is your toilet leaking?

Many toilet leaks are obvious because the toilet “runs,” making noise or causing movement in the toilet bowl between flushes. Silent toilet leaks also occur. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank and without flushing and wait about 10 minutes. Food coloring leaks out of the tank into the bowl if you have a leak.

The rubber flush valve or “flapper” decomposes over time. If black residue comes off when you touch the flapper or it looks warped or disfigured, it is time to replace it. Easy-to-install replacement kits are available at most home supply stores. To pick the right type of flapper, be sure you know how many gallons your old toilet uses or bring the old flapper with you.

If you must replace your toilet, Volusia County Water Resources and Utilities still offers a \$50 credit on your water bill when you replace your old water guzzler with a new 1.6 gallons per flush. Contact Becky Adkins at (386)-943-7027 ext. 2611 for details.

Waterwise plant of the month

Trumpet honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens



This native and drought tolerant vine produces reddish tubular flowers attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your gardens. If supported with a structure, it can reach a height of 20 feet. It makes a nice ground covering or can be contained in a hanging basket. Trumpet honeysuckle prefers part shade/part sun and can die back during a hard freeze.

Irrigation contractor visit offered

If you use city, county or metered reclaimed water for irrigation, take advantage of a visit by a trained irrigation auditor to help you reduce your water bill. Pay only \$25 for this one-hour visit, in which the auditor will do minor adjustments, assess your system, and work with you on timer settings. The Water Authority of Volusia pays the remaining cost through a grant from Volusia County Environmental Management. To be put on the list and for auditor referral, phone (386) 322-5160 #33. First come first-served!