

Home energy and water efficiency is greatly improved when going green. There are many solutions to conserve water and energy. By becoming water and energy efficient you not only help the environment but also gain considerable cost savings.

Here are a few tips to help save energy and water

- 1. Flush to Conserve with “Green” Toilets-** Regular toilets utilize about 1.6 gallons per flush. High efficiency toilets consume 1.1 gallons per flush without sacrificing performance. This is a .5 gallon of water saved per flush.
- 2. Live with Energy Star Label Appliances-** Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficiency. Appliances with the energy star label are extremely energy efficient as compared to standard appliances. For example, refrigerators need 15% energy savings over standard systems and dishwashers require 41% savings over standard systems. For more information regarding the energy star label visit the following website: <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- 3. Ensure Proper Insulation-** Properly insulating your attic and unheated crawl spaces will improve your energy efficiency immensely. Also caulking and weather stripping your home ensures air conditioning is efficiently used.
- 4. Use Fans to Keep Cool-** Ceiling fans can make you feel cooler allowing you to utilize less air conditioning. Fans can potentially reduce air conditioning cost by up to 40%.
- 5. Conserve Water with Rainwater Holding Tanks-** Capturing rainwater from storm runoff is an excellent way to save on the water bill. The tanks collect water from the roof of your home. The captured water can serve many purposes including watering the lawn and flushing your toilets.
- 6. Let the sun shine on your Solar Panels-** Solar panels are an excellent form of renewable energy. Solar energy is environmentally friendly and is excellent for sunny regions. Many in Florida utilize solar panels to warm their swimming pools. However, solar panels can also be used to supplement the energy used for the water heater as well as the energy used to light your home.