



Dear Parent,

Your child is participating in "Be Water Wise Miami." This innovative program aims to engage students in hands-on learning activities focusing on water conservation as part of National Environmental Education Week (EE Week), the nation's largest environmental education event.

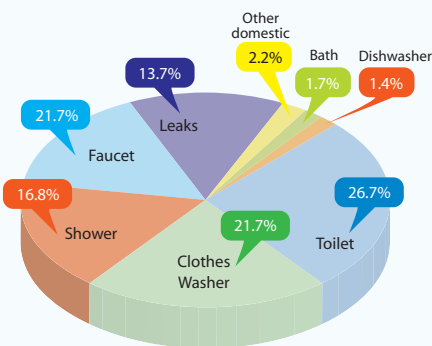
The National Environmental Education Foundation has partnered with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the City of Miami, the South Florida Water Management District, the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Johnson Controls, Inc. and HydroPoint Data Systems, Inc. to offer this unique program to students and teachers at 14 selected schools in the City of Miami. Be Water Wise Miami is made possible by EE Week's national sponsor, Wal-Mart.

As part of Be Water Wise Miami, your child:

- Will receive instruction and curriculum materials, all grade-appropriate and correlated to Sunshine State Standards, on issues of water conservation;
• Will engage in hands-on activities that emphasize the importance of water conservation in their school, at home and in the community;
• Will explore water use at home and at school;
• Will learn about civic engagement, green jobs and making a difference in the community, and;
• May be selected to present their findings to local public officials.

Water is quickly becoming the world's most precious resource as our population grows and supplies become more limited. In South Florida, water conservation is of particular importance. Being a sub-tropic region, South Florida experiences a rainy and a dry season. Groundwater is replenished by rainfall, so during the dry season (November through May,) these water sources become stressed. Additionally, saltwater intrusion into groundwater further limits the supply of fresh drinking water in the region. You are probably already familiar with the local water ordinances that regulate outdoor water use for watering lawns and washing cars, but there is more your family can do to conserve water. Every drop counts!

How much water does an average household use in the home?



Source: American Water Works Association

As parents, you play an important role in this educational experience. Here are some ways your family can work together to save water and money:

- Use a kitchen timer to time each family member's showers, and then challenge yourselves to reduce each shower by two minutes (you'll save 10 gallons of water per shower!)
• Put food coloring in the toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl, there is a leak. Fix a leaky toilet and you'll save up to 200 gallons of water per day.
• Encourage your child to research Florida-friendly plants and plant some in your yard. Native plants are more tolerant of the local weather and require less watering than non-native species.
• Share and discuss news articles about local water conservation issues with your child.
• Pick up litter in your neighborhood and on your school grounds. Miami is in the Everglades watershed, so everything eventually ends up in this precious water body.
• Use the chart on the reverse to keep track of water conservation activities for (at least) one week. Compare the family's water bill before and after taking these actions and discuss the results with your child.

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Be Water Wise Miami Family Water Conservation Checklist



National Environmental
Education Week
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

Use this table to record a week of water conservation activities. Place a check in the box for each activity each day of the week it is completed. Can you keep up the good work for a month? How about a year? It can save you money and conserve our water.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Reduce each shower by at least 2 minutes							
Run the dishwasher with only full loads							
Run the clothes washer with only full loads							
Turn off the water while brushing teeth and shaving							
Pick up any litter you find outdoors, and avoid using the toilet to dispose of tissues and other trash							