

# Florida-Friendly Water Star<sup>SM</sup> Gold

A collaboration between Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> and the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> Programs



Completion of this checklist is mandatory for determining the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> Gold rating of new and existing single-family residential homes. Properties shall be validated by a Florida Water Star inspector using this checklist.

For Florida Water Star Gold certification, each criterion identified for landscape, irrigation and indoor must be complied with and supported by documentation. Additional points in the landscape, irrigation and indoor "points" sections must be achieved.

Refer to the Florida Water Star Technical Manual for additional information on the criteria and practices at [flridawaterstar.com](http://flridawaterstar.com).

General Information			
Property and Builder/Applicant Information		Inspector Information	
Owner name		Inspector name	
Owner or applicant email		Inspection company	
Owner or applicant phone		Address	
Property address		City	
City		Zip	
Zip		Inspector phone	
		Inspector email	

Required Supporting Documentation	Yes	No	NA
Landscape drawing			
Irrigation drawing			
Schedule of indoor fixtures and appliances, including performance specifications			

<b>Site Criteria</b> (a minimum of 30 points shall be achieved)		<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>S 1</b>	30% or more of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural vegetative state, or;	15	
	At least 20% of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural state, or	10	
	At least 10% of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural state.	5	
<b>S 2</b>	Organic soil amendments, when used, shall be incorporated into the top 6 inches of existing soil per the manufacturer’s installation recommendations.	Up to 20	
<b>S 3</b>	Green stormwater infrastructure, if present, shall be installed and landscaped appropriately.	Up to 20	
<b>S 4</b>	Pervious surfaces shall be awarded points when installed in place of impervious materials or irrigated areas.	Up to 20	
<b>S 5</b>	Downspouts shall be directed to pervious areas onsite, two feet or more from foundation.	15	
<b>S 6</b>	Innovative water runoff or conservation strategies are used.	Up to 10	
<b>S 7</b>	Construction waste remaining on the landscaped areas at time of inspection.	Subtract 5	
<b>Requirement for Property Bordering a Water Body</b> (a minimum of 10 points shall be achieved)			
<b>S 8</b>	Non-irrigated vegetated terraces, swales or berms are used to reduce stormwater from entering the water body.	Up to 20	
<b>S 9</b>	A minimum 10-foot-wide border of unirrigated, site-appropriate plants is created parallel to the shoreline/seawall.	Up to 10	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

<b>Landscape</b> (Required criteria)		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>LC 1</b>	No invasive exotic plant species shall be in the landscaped area. (UF/IFAS assessment)			
<b>LC 2</b>	Root balls shall be at least 2.5 feet on center from the foundation of structure.			
<b>LC 3</b>	A minimum of 10 different plant species shall be in the landscape.			
<b>LC 4</b>	A minimum of 90% of plant selections shall be compatible with site-specific conditions such as sunlight, soil types, salinity (Right Plant, Right Place)			
<b>LC 5</b>	A minimum of 90% of plants shall be grouped by similar moisture and maintenance requirements. (Right Plant, Right Place)			
<b>LC 6</b>	A minimum of 30% of landscaping plants, not including turf, shall be site-appropriate <b>native</b> species ( <u>can</u> include preserved undisturbed areas).			
<b>LC 7</b>	Trees shall provide shade to 30% of the landscape at maturity.			
<b>LC 8</b>	Organic mulch shall be used and applied in a layer of 2 to 4 inches.			

<b>Landscape Points</b> (30 points shall be achieved)		<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>LP 1</b>	Trees provide shade to 50% or more of the total landscaped area at maturity (cannot include preservation area trees), or	20	
	Trees provide shade to at least 40% of the total landscaped area at maturity. (Cannot include preservation area trees.)	15	
<b>LP 2</b>	Unirrigated drought-tolerant turf grass or ground cover is used.	Up to 25	
<b>LP 3</b>	Landscape beds are designed to have no permanent irrigation system (all extensions/ lateral lines to these areas from an existing irrigation system are permanently disabled).	Up to 20	
<b>LP 4</b>	A minimum of 15 different plant species are used in the landscape.	10	
<b>LP 5</b>	Innovative landscape water conservation strategies are used.	Up to 10	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

<b>Irrigation</b> (Required criteria)		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>IRC 1</b>	Sprinklers* (rotors and sprays) shall not irrigate more than 50% of the total landscaped area.			
<b>IRC 2</b>	If irrigation is used for landscaped beds, microirrigation shall be installed.			
<b>IRC 3</b>	Irrigation for turf grass and landscaped beds shall be on separate zones.			
<b>IRC 4</b>	Irrigated areas less than 4 feet wide shall be irrigated with micro-irrigation or zone appropriate spray heads (center or side strip sprays are in their own zone).			
<b>IRC 5</b>	Sprinklers and emitters shall be located at least 2 feet from any structure.			
<b>IRC 6</b>	Irrigation system shall be free from observable leaks			
<b>IRC 7</b>	Sprinklers in low-lying areas shall have check valves.			
<b>IRC 8</b>	Sprinklers shall rise above turf grass height: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 6-inch pop-up for spray heads and 5-inch pop-up for rotor heads for St. Augustine, Zoysia and Bahia grasses</li> <li>• A minimum of 4-inch pop-up for spray and rotor heads for Centipede, Bermuda and Seashore Paspalum grasses</li> </ul>			
<b>IRC 9</b>	Irrigation application shall minimize overspray on impervious surfaces.			
<b>IRC 10</b>	Sprinkler head precipitation rate shall be matched.			
<b>IRC 11</b>	All sprinkler heads shall be pressure regulated at the head or the valve.			
<b>IRC 12</b>	Head spacing shall not exceed 50% of the nozzle throw diameter (head-to-head spacing).			
<b>IRC 13</b>	All automatic irrigation systems shall be controlled with a smart controller (weather-based or soil-moisture). WaterSense®-labelled controllers comply.			

\* **Sprinkler** — An emission device consisting of a sprinkler body with one or more orifices to convert irrigation water pressure to high velocity water discharge through the air, discharging a minimum of 0.5 gallon per minute (gpm) (1.9 liters per minute) at the largest area of coverage.

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<b>Irrigation Points</b> (40 points shall be achieved)		<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>IRP 1</b>	No inground irrigation.	40	
	Less than 25% of the landscape shall have inground irrigation.	30	
	Less than 50% of the landscape shall have inground irrigation.	20	
	Less than 75% of the landscape shall have inground irrigation.	10	
<b>IRP 2</b>	30% of irrigated area has sprinkler irrigation.	15	
	31–40% of irrigated area has sprinkler irrigation.	10	
	41–50% of irrigated area has sprinkler irrigation.	5	
<b>IRP 3</b>	Leak detection/flow-sensing system is installed and operational.	10	
<b>IRP 4</b>	Irrigation shall be supplied by rainfall harvesting system (designed, sized and used in accordance with the Tampa Bay Water BMP manual).	Up to 40	
<b>IRP 5</b>	A water budget demonstrating the irrigation system shall not exceed a required 35 inches annually is included in homeowner documents.	15	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

<b>Indoor</b> (Required criteria)		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>INC 1</b>	All fixture and appliance water supply lines shall be reinforced.			
<b>INC 2</b>	All toilets shall be high efficiency (1.28 gallons/flush with a UNAR MaP rating above 350 grams/flush). WaterSense®-labeled toilets comply.			
<b>INC 3</b>	Single showerhead shall have flow rate of 2 gallons/minute or less, or WaterSense®-labeled.			
<b>INC 4</b>	All lavatory sink faucets shall have flow rates of 1.5 gallons/minute or less, or WaterSense®-labeled.			
<b>INC 5</b>	If the applicant chooses to install clothes washer, it shall meet current ENERGY STAR® performance criteria.			
<b>INC 6</b>	If the applicant chooses to install dishwasher, it shall meet current ENERGY STAR® performance criteria.			

<b>Indoor Points</b> (15 points shall be achieved)		<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>INP 1</b>	High-efficiency toilet (maximum 1.0 gallon/flush with a UNAR MaP rating above 350 grams/flush) shall be installed. WaterSense®-labeled toilets comply.	2 per toilet	
<b>INP 2</b>	Lavatory sink faucets shall have flow rates of 1 gallon/minute or less.	2 per faucet	
<b>INP 3</b>	All kitchen faucets shall have flow rates of 1.5 gallons per minute or less or are WaterSense®- labeled faucets.	4 per faucet	
<b>INP 4</b>	Centrally located hot water tank/manifold plumbing system shall be used.	6	
	A point-of-use or on-demand water heater supplies the kitchen fixtures and appliances.	6	
<b>INP 5</b>	Rainwater or gray water is used to flush all toilets.	6	
<b>INP 6</b>	Innovative indoor water conservation is used.	Up to 10	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

## Post-Certification Outreach

There are multiple pathways for this post certification phase to occur. Ideally a local UF/IFAS Extension Agent will contact the new homeowner. An inspector can leave a folder of support materials in the home at the time of inspection. The FFL state office will contact the homeowner by mail within 2–3 months after the scheduled closing date.

Homeowner support material folder shall include:

1. The property's irrigation design drawing, including location and size of components and if applicable, the water budget for the irrigation system and the soil moisture probe location.
2. The property's irrigation controller handbook/operating instructions and irrigation restrictions magnet/cling.
3. Any landscape maintenance instructions for the property with recommended fertilizer and pesticide applications. <https://floridawaterstar.com/technicalmanual/landscape/fertilizerandpesticides.html>
4. A list of local UF/IFAS Extension contact information.
5. A completed and signed landscape installer affidavit stating that all plants are installed according to the Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries.
6. On-site stormwater system maintenance guidelines.