Saving water during the holidays

The Southwest Florida Water Management District is offering six ways to prepare for holiday meals and parties with running up your water bill. ‘It is especially important to conserve water during the holidays, as they fall within our traditional dry season,’ said district spokeswoman Robyn Felix in a release. ‘We can all make a difference by incorporating a few simple tips into our routines.’

During the holidays, water plays a role in everything from food preparation to the clean-up process. Here’s how to incorporate water conservation into your holiday preparations:

- Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator or the microwave instead of running hot water over them.
- Rinse vegetables and fruit in a sink or pan filled with water instead of under running water. This water can then be reused to water houseplants. A running faucet can use up to four gallons per minute.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water and fill the rinsing sink one-third to one-half full. Avoid letting the water run continuously in the rinsing sink.
- Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water than may be necessary.
- Scrap food scraps into the garbage can or a composting bin rather than rinsing them into the sink’s garbage disposal, which uses up to 4 to 5 gallons of water per minute.
- Run dishwashers only when fully loaded. Dishwashers use between seven and 12 gallons per load.

For more water conservation tips and the current water restrictions, visit the district’s website: www.WaterMatters.org/conservation.

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