



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Miami-Dade Home Sparkles with 'Gold' Florida Water Star** *Home is first in the county to earn the highest certification for conserving water*



*The Gold-certified home includes the use of rain barrels (left) and organic mulch in drought-resistant landscaping (right).*

**South Miami, FL** – A South Miami home has been recognized for meeting the highest standard of residential water conservation as part of the Florida Water Star program administered by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

The house earned the first Florida Water Star Gold certification in Miami-Dade County by making key home improvements that significantly improve water use efficiency.

Among the home's features: No irrigation system. Drought-resistant landscaping. Four rain barrels capable of capturing a total of 950 gallons of rainwater. Low-flow faucets and showerheads in all three bathrooms.

"The District is committed to water conservation and this program exemplifies our partnership with the community to accomplish that goal," said SFWMD Water Supply Bureau Chief Dean Powell. "Conserving water, especially during periods of drought, helps preserve the water supply for residents and the environment."

Developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Water Star is also implemented in both the South and Southwest Florida water management districts. Florida Water Star is a points-based certification program encouraging water savings in homes by recognizing the use of water-efficient household appliances, plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and landscapes.

A SFWMD-trained certifier verified that the house had achieved enough points in each category to qualify for Florida Water Star certification.

Florida Water Star can be effectively integrated into building projects along with other programs, such as the Florida Green Building Coalition's green standards and the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. While many of these programs provide general guidelines for water efficiency, Florida Water Star specifically addresses uses relevant to Florida, further enhancing effectiveness of the other programs.

In South Florida, more than 200 homes have been certified with a Gold, Silver or Bronze ranking. Eligible homeowners can apply through a certification specialist to earn a Florida Water Star plaque. To find a certifier, click [here](#).

For more information on the Water Star program, click [here](#). For more tips on how to conserve water, visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

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### **About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*