

Florida Water StarSM Residential Criteria and Qualifications Checklist

Silver and Gold Certifications



This checklist is for determining the Florida Water StarSM Silver or Gold rating of new and existing single-family residential homes. The requirements in this checklist shall be validated by a Florida Water StarSM accredited inspector.

Florida Water StarSM certification may be awarded at a Silver or Gold level.

- Silver — Each criterion identified below for landscape, irrigation and indoor must be complied with and supported by documentation.
- Gold — In addition to complying with each criterion below, accompanied with supporting documentation, minimum points shall be achieved in the categories of landscape (45 points), irrigation (35 points) and indoor (20 points).

Refer to the Florida Water StarSM Technical Manual for additional information on the criteria and practices.

General Information			
Home Information		Inspector Information	
Owner's name		Inspector's name	
Company		Company	
Address		Address	
City		City	
Zip		Zip	
Phone		Phone	
Email		Email	

Required Supporting Documentation			
	Yes	No	NA
Certificate of occupancy			
Landscape drawing			
Irrigation drawing			
Landscape affidavit			
Irrigation affidavit (if there is a permanent in-ground irrigation system)			
Schedule of indoor fixtures and appliances, including performance specifications			

CRITERIA (Silver and Gold)

Landscape				
		Yes	No	NA
LC 1	No invasive exotic plant species are in the landscaped area.			
LC 2	Root balls are at least 2.5 feet on center from the foundation of the structure.			
LC 3	A minimum of 90% of plant selections is compatible with site-specific conditions such as sunlight, soil types and salinity.			
LC 4	A minimum of 90% of plants is grouped with similar moisture and maintenance requirements.			
LC 5	Trees will provide shade to 30% of the total landscaped area at maturity. For properties where no more than 50% of the turf has permanent irrigation, trees at maturity shall provide shade to a minimum of 15% of the total landscaped area.			
LC 6	Organic mulch is used and applied to a depth of 2 to 4 inches, leaving a 2-inch space around the base of plant.			
LC 7	All plants are installed according to the <i>Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources</i> by the Green Industries. The landscape installer must attest to this in an affidavit.			

Irrigation				
General Design		Yes	No	NA
IRC 1	High-volume irrigation does not irrigate more than 60% of the total landscaped area (Silver).			
	High-volume irrigation does not irrigate more than 50% of the total landscaped area (Gold).			
IRC 2	If irrigation is used for landscaped beds, microirrigation is used and is correctly installed.			
IRC 3	Irrigation zones for turfgrass and landscaped beds are separate.			
IRC 4	Irrigated areas less than four feet wide are irrigated with correctly designed and installed micro-irrigation.			
IRC 5	Sprinklers and emitters are located at a minimum of two feet from structures.			
IRC 6	The irrigation system is free from leaks.			
IRC 7	Sprinklers in low-lying areas have check valves.			
Distribution Uniformity		Yes	No	NA
IRC 8	Sprinklers rise above turfgrass height: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 6-inch pop-up for spray heads and 4-inch pop-up for rotor heads for St. Augustine, Zoysia and Bahia grasses • A minimum of 4-inch pop-up for spray and rotor heads for Centipede, Bermuda and Seashore Paspalum grasses 			
IRC 9	Application occurs in proper spray patterns, minimizing overspray on impervious surfaces.			
IRC 10	Pipes are sized to prevent velocities higher than five feet/second.			

CRITERIA (Silver and Gold)

Irrigation				
		Yes	No	NA
IRC 11	Precipitation rates for all sprinklers within a zone are matched.			
IRC 12	All sprinkler heads with spray nozzles (non-rotary) are pressure-regulated at the head or zone valve.			
IRC 13	Head spacing does not exceed 50% of the nozzle throw diameter.(head to head spacing)			
Scheduling		Yes	No	NA
IRC 14	A device with rain shut-off capabilities is installed in an operable location and is functioning.			
IRC 15	Each of the following items has been provided to the homeowner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controller handbook/operating instructions • As-built zone diagram, including location and size of components, and soil moisture sensor probe location if applicable • Precipitation rates for each zone • Schedule run times, winter and summer 			
IRC 16	If the home is owner-occupied, the homeowner has been trained in how to change the controller schedule for maintenance and for changes in local water rules.			

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

**Applicants for Silver certification proceed to landscape and irrigation affidavits.
To achieve Gold certification, points must be earned in addition to meeting the preceding criteria.**

GOLD CRITERIA

Landscape			
Applicant must achieve 45 points		Points Possible	Points Earned
LP 1	30% or more of the lot area remains undisturbed and in a natural state with no supplemental irrigation.	15	
	20% or more of the lot area remains undisturbed and in a natural state with no supplemental irrigation.	10	
	10% or more of the lot area remains undisturbed and in a natural state with no supplemental irrigation.	5	
LP 2	Trees will provide shade up to 50% of the total landscaped area at maturity (cannot include trees from LP 1 above).	20	
	Trees will provide shade up to 40% of the total landscaped area at maturity (cannot include trees from LP 1 above).	15	
LP 3	Unirrigated drought-tolerant turf grass or ground cover is used.	Up to 25	
LP 4	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	
LP 5	Landscape maintenance instructions with recommended fertilizer and pesticide applications are permanently posted near the irrigation controller.	5	
LP 6	Organic soil amendments incorporated into top 8 inches of existing soil (amendment of at least 5% of the soil weight recommended).	10	
LP 7	All downspouts are directed to pervious areas — outfall is two feet or more from the foundation.	5	
LP 8	Innovative landscape water conservation is used.	Up to 10	
Property Bordering a Water Body (10 additional points needed)		—	
LP 9	A minimum 10-foot border of unirrigated, site-appropriate plants is created parallel to the shoreline/seawall.	Up to 10	
LP 10	Non-irrigated vegetated terraces, swales or berms are used to prevent stormwater from entering the water body (A letter of modification to an environmental resource permit may be required by the applicant to achieve these points).	Up to 10	
TOTAL:		120+	

GOLD CRITERIA

Irrigation			
Applicant must achieve 35 points		Points Possible	Points Earned
IRP 1	100% of the landscape has no inground irrigation.	35	
	75% of the landscape has no inground irrigation.	30	
	50% of the landscape has no inground irrigation.	25	
	25% of the landscape has no inground irrigation.	20	
IRP 2	The landscape has no high-volume irrigation	30	
	High-volume irrigation covers 30% of the irrigated area.	20	
	High-volume irrigation covers 31-40% of the irrigated area.	15	
	High-volume irrigation covers 41-50% of the irrigated area.	10	
IRP 3	Pressure-regulating valves control all zones.	5	
IRP 4	A master in-line pressure regulator at the water source, adjusted to maximize efficient irrigation equipment operation is used.	5	
IRP 5	Soil moisture sensor (SMS) controller with multiple SMS probes is correctly installed, using burial grade connectors in the valve box, and is functioning correctly.	20	
	SMS controllers with one SMS probe is correctly installed, using burial grade connectors in the valve box, and is functioning correctly.	15	
IRP 6	ET (evapotranspiration), smart or weather-based controller is installed correctly, programmed and functioning.	20	
IRP 7	Leak detection/flow-sensing system is installed by homeowner or utility.	5	
IRP 8	Irrigation supplied by rainfall harvesting system (designed and sized in accordance with <i>Tampa Bay Water BMP manual</i>).	Up to 35	
TOTAL:		125+	

Indoor			
Applicant must achieve 20 points		Points Possible	Points Earned
INP 1	High-efficiency toilet (maximum 1.0 gallon/flush with a UNAR MaP rating above 350 grams/flush). WaterSense®-labeled toilets comply.	2 per toilet	
INP 2	Lavatory sink faucets have flow rates of 1 gallon/minute or less.	2 per faucet	
INP 3	All kitchen faucets have flow rates of 1.5 gallons per minute or less or are WaterSense®- labeled faucets.	4 per faucet	
INP 4	The dishwasher uses less than 4.25 gallons per cycle (ENERGY STAR® models qualify).	3	
INP 5	Clothes washer has a water factor of 4.3 gallons or less (ENERGY STAR® models qualify).	15	
INP 6	Centrally located hot water tank/manifold plumbing system is used.	6	
	A point-of-use or on-demand water heater supplies the kitchen fixtures and appliances.	6	
INP 7	Rainwater or gray water is used to flush all toilets.	6	
INP 8	Innovative indoor water conservation is used.	Up to 10	
TOTAL:		63+	

INSPECTOR AFFIDAVIT

If Gold, Criteria Points Met by:			
	Possible Points	Minimum Points Required	Points Earned
Landscape	120+	45	
Irrigation	125+	35	
Indoor	63+	20	
TOTAL:		100	

If the above Gold Criteria table is blank, then Gold level has not been achieved.

I hereby attest that all of the above items were completed and validated by the undersigned or under the supervision of the undersigned person.

Signature

Date

Company name

Phone

Project address

IRRIGATION AFFIDAVIT

If a permanent in-ground irrigation system has been installed, it must have been installed per the design drawings and in accordance with the irrigation criteria. The irrigation system installer shall attest and confirm by signing this document that the following items have been successfully completed or the Water Star Inspector shall attest and confirm by signing this document that the property does not have or planned to have irrigation.

Item	Completed
Sprinklers in low-lying areas (heads that are lower than the valve box) have check valves.	
Pipes have been sized to prevent velocities higher than 5 feet per second.	
Precipitation rates for all sprinklers within a zone are matched.	
A device with rain shut-off scheduling capabilities has been installed in an operable location and is functioning.	
Each of the following items has been provided to the homeowner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controller handbook/operating instructions • As-built zone diagram, including location and size of components, and soil moisture sensor probe location if applicable • Precipitation rates for each zone • Schedule run times, winter and summer 	
If the home is owner-occupied, the homeowner has been trained in how to change the controller schedule for maintenance and for changes in local water rules.	

Check one:

- I hereby attest that all of the above items were completed by the undersigned or under the supervision of the undersigned person.**
- I hereby attest that that the property is not installing an in-ground irrigation system.**

Signature

Date

Company name

Phone

Project address

LANDSCAPE AFFIDAVIT

Landscape materials must be installed in accordance with the *Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries*. The landscape installer must attest and confirm by signing this document that the following practices have been followed.

Practice	Completed
Organic mulch was used and applied to a depth of 2 to 4 inches, leaving a 2-inch space around the base of the plant.	
A site evaluation was conducted.	
Right plant, right place — plants were selected with attributes specific to site conditions.	
Plants were chosen that will not outgrow their allotted space.	
The soil was prepared correctly before planting to ensure establishment.	
If compacted, soil was tilled.	
LP 6 (if selected), organic soil amendments have been added into the top 8 inches of soil.	
When planting trees and shrubs, each root ball was inspected, and all soil removed from above the topmost root.	
When planting trees and shrubs, each planting hole was prepared correctly.	

I hereby attest that all of the above practices were completed by the undersigned or under the supervision of the undersigned person.

Signature

Date

Company name

Phone

Project address