

FLORIDA SOLAR



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The Planet Janitor: A symbol of global concerns

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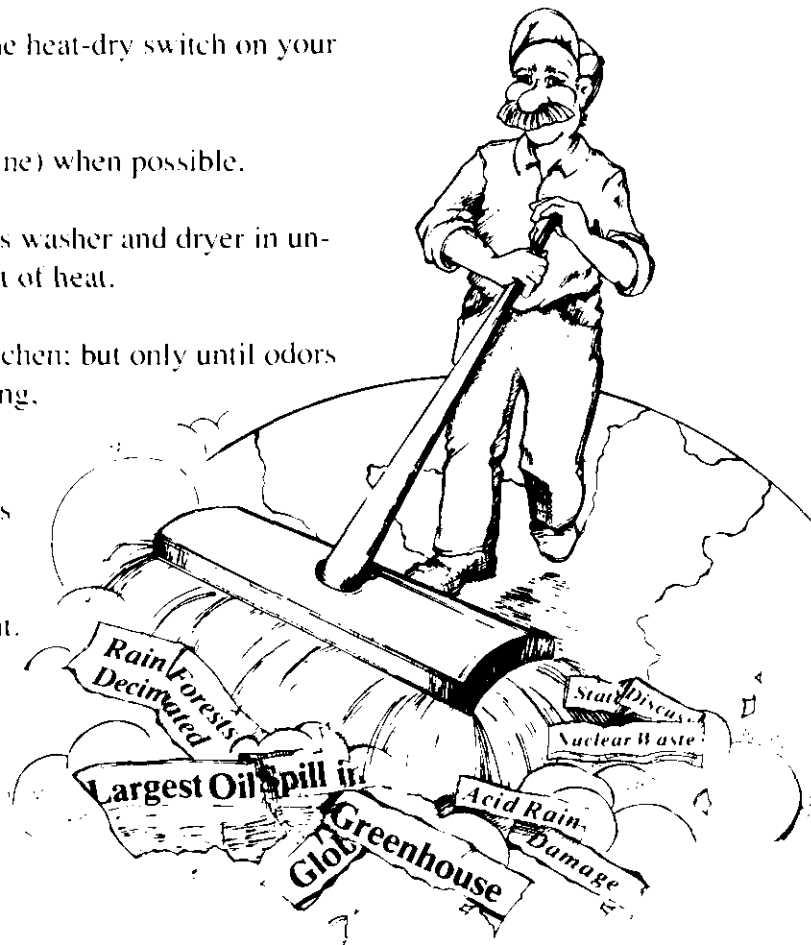
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Public Information Office

The Planet Janitor: A symbol of global concerns

Meet the Planet Janitor. A kindly, yet determined gent, he works at the Florida Solar Energy Center where he is a spokesman for energy-related issues. He illustrates the need to sweep up all the environmental messes we've made. He reminds us to maintain our home — Planet Earth. He dramatizes our role as custodians of our children's inheritance. He knows and he shows how the individual can make a difference.

Since energy use and environmental impacts are intertwined, there are personal energy-use choices we can make that will slow, stop and even reverse the damage being done to our world. Here are some tips the Planet Janitor suggests for environmental repair and maintenance:

- Go solar for water and pool heating.
- Next time you're in the market for appliances, buy energy-efficient ones.
- Let dishes air dry rather than using the heat-dry switch on your automatic dishwasher.
- Use a "solar clothes dryer" (clothes line) when possible.
- Place your hot water tank, and clothes washer and dryer in un-conditioned space. They give off a lot of heat.
- Use exhaust fans in bathroom and kitchen: but only until odors or humidity are removed. Left running, they can waste conditioned air.
- Follow government recommendations for refrigerator/freezer temperatures: 38° F in the fresh food section and 5° F in the frozen foods compartment.
- Keep lamps and lighting fixtures clean. Accumulated dust reduces the amount of light.



- Keep outdoor air-conditioning or heating units clean and free of leaves and other debris. When the vents get clogged, the units have to run longer to do their job.
- Get into the recycling habit. It saves energy and resources, protects the environment and can even bring in some extra cash for you or your favorite organization.
- Landscape with natural ground covers that conserve water and require little maintenance. Avoid using asphalt and concrete.
- Plant and preserve trees. They keep the air cooler and cleaner and increase the value of your property.
- Provide exterior shade, using overhangs, trees, awnings, or shutters. Wide porches are great to shade conditioned space and are the best place to install skylights so extra heat won't enter the house.
- Check for leaks in ducts, windows and doors. It's expensive and fruitless to condition the out-of-doors.
- Use light-colored roof and exterior house materials.
- Install attic radiant barriers.
- Shade window areas.
- Drive and maintain energy-efficient vehicles.
- Avoid options on cars that limit fuel economy.
- Avoid using "drive-in" windows and shut off your vehicle engine rather than keeping the motor running while you dash into the convenience store.
- Learn all you can about energy alternatives and environmental issues.

For more information on these and other energy-saving ideas, plus a list of over 300 available documents on energy, contact the Public Information Office of the Florida Solar Energy Center.