



To transform our Community by improving the quality of life through assisting individuals in the areas of housing, education, employment and community revitalization

CARE & CONSERVE PLUMBING REPAIR PROGRAM

WATER CONSERVATION



This program is funded in part by a grant from the City Of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management

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CARE & CONSERVE **PLUMBING REPAIR PROGRAM**

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Hundreds of gallons of water are wasted inside your home and businesses each year. Conserve water and save money when you become WaterSmart!

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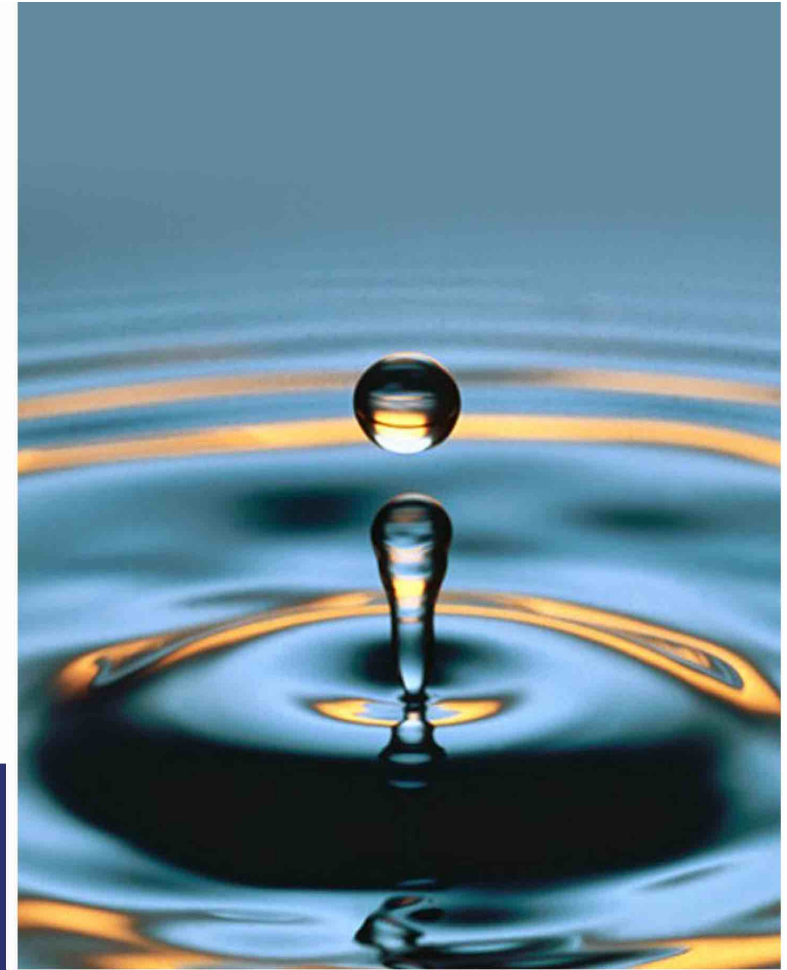
CARE & CONSERVE PLUMBING REPAIR PROGRAM

BECOME WATERSMART!

- How much water do you use everyday in your home? The average American uses between 80-100 gallons of water per day. The Water Conservation course will help you learn how to save water inside and outside of your home.
- You'll find that you can save hundreds of gallons of water inside your home each year when you become WaterSmart!*

*WaterSmartSM is a water conservation education program initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA). Its mission is to educate about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation so that all residents can help make a difference and be WaterSmart!

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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Toilets

More water is used to flush the toilet than for any other purpose in the home!

- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket!
- Test for a leaking toilet by adding food coloring to the tank. If color appears in the bowl after 30 minutes, your toilet is leaking. A leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons per day.
- Installing a water-efficient, 1.28 gallons-per-flush High Efficiency toilet will lower the cost of water and sewer bills significantly.
- When purchasing a new toilet be sure to look for the EPA WaterSense label. WaterSense labeled products have been third-party tested and certified to meet EPA criteria for both efficiency and performance.
- If you don't have a water-efficient toilet, gently submerge an empty 2 liter bottle or container into your toilet tank allowing it to fill up with water to weigh it down. By leaving this container in the tank away from moving parts, you will save two liters of water every time you flush.



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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Showers and Tubs

Reducing water use in your shower will also reduce the amount of energy needed to heat water.

- Take short showers instead of baths to use less water. Reducing your shower time by just one minute can save two to six gallons of water.
- Check your showerhead for drips or leaks and replace washers. Worn out washers are the main cause of leaks.
- According to state requirements, homeowner's should install water-efficient showerheads.
- The typical showerhead allows a water flow of five gallons-per-minute. Installing a high efficiency showerhead will reduce this flow by 50%.
Use a WaterSense labeled showerhead.



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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Washing Machine

Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy.

- By running full loads in the washing machine the average family can save up to 700 gallons of water per month, reducing water bills.
- Make sure to adjust the water level for each load.
- A front-load washing machine uses 1/3 less water than a top-load machine.
- Remember to set up an appliance maintenance check-up every 3-4 years to ensure the performance efficiency of your washing machine.
- When in the market for a new washing machine, look for a WaterSense labeled high efficiency model to help you save on both water and energy bills.



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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Kitchen Faucet and Dishwasher

Washing the dishes accounts for most of the water usage in the kitchen.

- Operate automatic dishwashers only when fully loaded to save on hot water, detergent and energy costs.
- By using the short cycle on your dishwasher instead of the full cycle, you can save 15 gallons of water per load.
 - Remember when washing your dishes to limit the amount of hot water usage.
- Check to see if your dishwasher can clean dishes without pre-rinsing them. Most current model dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.
 - If you need to hand-wash dishes, do not leave the tap running while you scrub.



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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Bathroom Faucets

Bathroom faucets use two to seven gallons of water per minute.

- Always turn off the water while brushing your teeth and washing your hands.
- Install a low-flow faucet aerator with a flow restrictor to reduce the flow by 25%.
- Remember to clean the aerator routinely to remove any obstructing particles collected in the screen.
- Fix leaks immediately: a small drip can result in up to 15 gallons of water a day or 105 gallons a week in wasted water, which adds up to more than 5,000 gallons of wasted water a year!



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INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

OTHER
WATERSMARTSM
TIPS:

Pour unwanted drinking water from your cup or bottle onto a house plant instead of down a drain.

Water used to boil and steam vegetables can be used to water house plants once it has cooled



CHECK YOUR
WATER METER TO
FIND LEAKS IN
YOUR HOME

Start by turning off all faucets and water- using appliances in your home. (Remember to include your ice maker!)

Take a reading on your water meter.

After two hours, take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak!

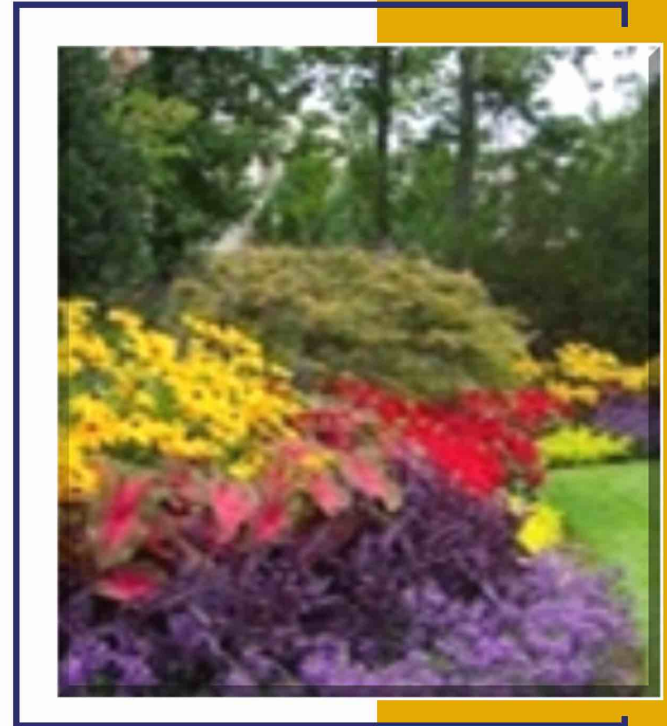




CARE & CONSERVE PLUMBING REPAIR PROGRAM

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

You can have a healthy landscape and conserve water. Plant the right plant in the right place, design and maintain your landscape for efficient water use!



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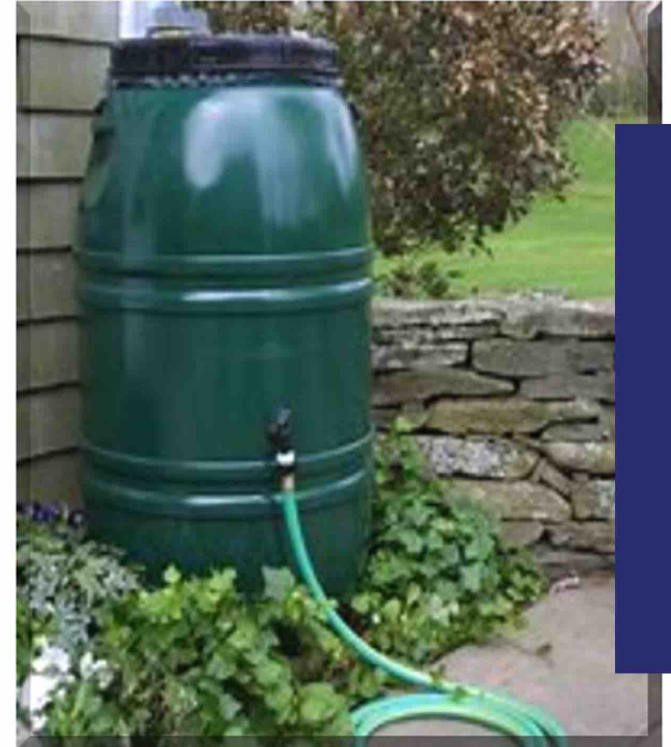
OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Aerate

- Relieve soil compaction to increase air and water movement into the soil by aerating when required - especially on slopes
- Rent a power aerator and aerate during periods of active plant growth and when the soil is moist

Collect Water

- Place rain barrels under downspouts to collect water that can be used to hydrate your landscape without turning on a faucet.
 - Be sure to place screens over your rain barrel to keep out debris such as pine needles and leaves. Utilize "mosquito dunks," which are donut shaped larvicide tablets, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
- Install cisterns to collect storm water that can be used in times of drought, much like a rain barrel.



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OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Fertilize Less

- Fertilize less during droughts
Use a fertilizer with nitrogen in a slow-release form, such as sulfur-coated urea, urea formaldehyde, IBDU (isobutylene-diurea) or methylene urea
- Check the application rate on the label - this rate is ideal when planting but should be reduced once plants are established
- Employ "grass cycling" - leave grass clippings on turfgrass at each mowing to supply the grass with recycled nutrients. However, be sure to break up or get rid of clumps.



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OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Plant Wisely

- Choose plants that are native to your area, are drought resistant and thrive in your local environment. *Note - native plants will not always be the most drought resistant.
- Some examples of WaterSmart plants include Carolina Jessamine, Confederate Jasmine, Crape Myrtle, Hydrangea, Japanese maple, Juniper, Lantana, Petunia, Verbena and Viburnum
- Design turf areas in practical shapes that can be mowed and irrigated easily. Avoid sharp angles and long, narrow strips.
- Plan for shade - a shaded landscape can be as much as 20° cooler than a landscape in full sun and preserves moisture. Arbors, trellis, and fences with vine covers can be effective sources of shade and help retain moisture.
- Place plants with high water requirements in areas that stay moist naturally, and low-water-need plants in drier areas.

Choose plants that are native to your area, are drought resistant and thrive in your local environment. *Note - native plants will not always be the most drought resistant.





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OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Mulch

- Proper mulch is the key to preventing water loss from your soil, reducing the need for supplemental irrigation and completing the overall attractiveness of your landscape
- Apply approximately two inches of mulch, or five inches of pine straw, under ornamental plants in the landscape (avoid applying too much mulch because it encourages shallow roots)
- Place newspapers on the soil under organic mulch at planting time to improve water conservation in the soil, thoroughly soak newspapers after applying mulch
- Extend mulched areas two to three times the canopy spread of ornamental trees and shrubs
- Once mulch is in place, use your hand to pull it back 3 inches from the trunk of trees and shrubs (this will help prevent stem rotting diseases)
- Don't add organic matter to individual planting holes for trees and shrubs. Organic matter encourages roots to stay in the hole instead of growing out.

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