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Cobb Residents Can Cash in on Water-Saving Tools

By Kathy Nguyen, Senior Project Manager, Cobb County Water System

Whether by utilizing new water-saving technologies or relying on tried-and-true conservation techniques, it is no secret that decreasing your family's water usage can result in big savings when the utility bill arrives.

Many people, however, are not aware of the countless ways to easily reduce excessive usage. By making a conscious effort, purchasing water-saving tools or working with your water provider – as mentioned in the tips below – residents will enjoy a water-efficient home that can save money each month!

The first step in converting to a water-efficient home is a no-brainer – check for leaks!

Since it's not always as easy as listening for a dripping faucet, homeowners should start by turning off every water-using appliance – and don't forget the icemaker. Take a reading on the water meter right away, and then again after a few hours. If the dial has moved, there is likely a leak.

A leak detection tablet (free by contacting Cobb County Water System) can be used to check toilets for leaks.

Remember, even a small leak can waste 15 gallons of water per day – which, based on current water and sewer rates, could cost you \$44.36 over the course of a year!

In addition to fixing leaks, one of the easiest ways to implement changes is a one-time switch to water-saving appliances. The Cobb County Water System has a rebate in place for efficient toilets that residents can use for installation.

Rebates apply to single-family homes built before 1993 with old or inefficient toilets.

At-a-Glance:

3 Easy Ways to Save on Your Water Bill This Month!

Low Flow Kits

- > Include showerhead, faucet aerators, leak detection tablets, toilet tank diverter clips, toilet tank displacement bags and flow measurement bags
- > Free by contacting the Cobb County Water System

Rebate Offers

- > \$100 rebate by replacing an inefficient toilets with a WaterSense Labeled High Efficiency Toilet
- > The Cobb County Water System gives rebates to residents living in single-family homes built before 1993; call for details and to qualify

Outdoor Kits

- > Include a soil moisture probe, rain gauge and hose shut off nozzle
- > Free by contacting the Cobb County Water System



- > \$100.00 rebate for replacing with a WaterSense Labeled High Efficiency Toilet
- > \$50.00 rebate for replacing with a 1.6 Ultra Low Flow Toilet – this opportunity will no longer be available starting in 2012

The Cobb County Water System also has indoor and outdoor kits, both free of charge to Cobb County citizens.

Those worried that low-flow showerheads mean less water pressure can rest assured that the latest technologies alleviate this issue. Residents can obtain showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet tank diverter clips and displacement bags at no cost through the Water System. Installation takes just minutes, and once installed, you'll likely forget they're in use – until you get your water bill, that is.

Similar kits are available for lawn care, including a soil moisture probe, rain gauge and hose shut-off nozzle.

If you're interested in taking even more steps to saving money and our water supply, the Water System has a plethora of civic educational programs about various water issues, including indoor and outdoor conservation, drought, resource challenges, proper medication disposal and the water cycle. waterSmart, a program in conjunction with the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, also distributes tips and tools throughout the area, as well as online.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the CCMWA in 2000 to educate their service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its eleventh year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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