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**As Temperatures Drop, Metro Atlanta Residents Prepare Homes for Winter Months Ahead**

*-waterSmart provides winter-friendly conservation tips to keep your home efficient and safe-*

**MARIETTA, Ga.** (Nov. 28, 2011) – With anticipated snowfall and plummeting temperatures, residents in the Metro-Atlanta area are bracing their homes for the cold months ahead. As with most winters, we'll undoubtedly experience freezing temperatures that can cause costly home repairs. Use these tips developed by waterSmart – a water conservation program initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority – to save money, time and water this winter season.

- **Keep an Eye on Pipes** – The start of the season is a perfect time to disconnect all garden hoses and turn off valves that lead to outdoor faucets. Use waterproof insulation – available at most hardware and home stores – as a water-efficient means to save pipes from cracking instead of letting the faucet drip. For indoor sinks, leave cabinet doors open to allow heat from the house to keep pipes warm.
- **Prep your Plants** – Mulches, such as shredded hardwood mulch or pine straw, can help trees, shrubs and other plants retain water during a freeze. According to Bruce Holliday, a landscape architect and expert on water-friendly gardening, plants that have moisture sealed in before a freeze will be insulated to protect roots and leaves from dry, freezing winds.
- **Save Time in the Shower** – Avoid temptation to fight off the winter cold with a longer-than-usual shower. A typical showerhead uses between 3-6 gallons per minute, so minimize shower time to conserve – or better yet – install a low-flow showerhead.

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“Winter months can be a trying time for home maintenance,” says Becky Mixon, project manager for waterSmart. “Using these techniques, Metro-Atlanta residents can conserve water and ensure a more efficient home.”

For more tips on how to maintain a “winterSmart” home – as well as other water conservation tips – visit [www.waterSmart.net](http://www.waterSmart.net).

### **About waterSmart**

The waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> program was initiated by the Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority (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](http://www.waterSmart.net).

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