



NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? WATER CONSERVATION TIPS HELP HOMEOWNERS GET WINTERSMART

-- Indoor conservation tips during winter drought help residents save money, time and water --

Marietta, GA (Jan. 15, 2008) – The cold weather and winds have arrived, and with the current drought, winter is the perfect time to practice water conservation efforts within the home. With a few helpful tips, Cobb and Paulding County residents can avoid some frosty mistakes to prevent their water use from snowballing.

“Although we have had some recent rains, we are a long way from being out of a drought,” says Becky Mixon, waterSmart program director. “A little effort here and there can make a big difference.”

waterSmart is committed to providing Cobb and Paulding County residents with programs and resources that encourage water conservation.

Some practical winterSmart tips to remember:

- Don't drip outdoor faucets during freezing temperatures – which is a common practice used widely among residents. Instead, make sure to insulate all outdoor pipes to avoid freezing. Waterproof insulation is available at home and hardware stores.
- Don't leave a hot shower running to steam up a chilly bathroom before you get in. Instead, keep the thermostat at a comfortable level, use a space heater or shut all bathroom doors before going to bed to capture the heat running throughout the night.
- Make sure to open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air in the house to prevent pipe freezing.
- Seal drafts that let cold air into the home.
- Make sure all outdoor plants, trees and shrubs have plenty of ground coverings such as mulch and pine straw to help retain water.
- Place rain barrels or other outdoor water collection containers under down spouts to save water that can be used to keep plants hydrated.
- Check in and around the home for leaky faucets, toilets and pipes to prevent wasting water.
- Disconnect garden hoses and turn off valves that provide water to outside faucets that may freeze.



“By following these guidelines this winter, residents will save water and money,” says Mixon. “waterSmart’s winter conservation tips are a great way to begin a water-conscious lifestyle that is encouraged throughout the entire year.”

For more information about waterSmart and ways to take part in conserving water, visit www.waterSmart.net.

About waterSmart

The waterSmart program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round, conservation in all climatic conditions. The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority is in its eighth year of sponsoring the waterSmart program. For more information, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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