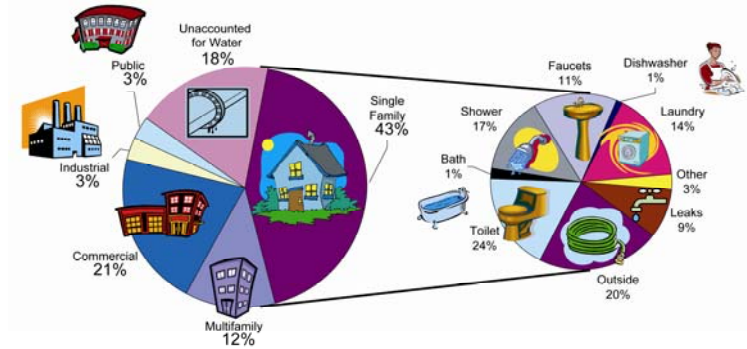




Reducing Water Use: Tips for All Sectors

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has over 4 million citizens who all use water in a variety of ways. These tips highlight ways to reduce water use in homes, businesses and industries.

How do we use water in Metro Atlanta?



Residential Homes

Fix Leaks. This includes plumbing joints, toilets, faucets, and showerheads. The average home loses about 8% or more of its water use to leaks.

Shorten your shower. Decrease your shower time and save 2.5 gallons a minute. Keep them under 5 minutes to really be a water saver!

Turn off the faucet. Save 2 gallons a minute when brushing your teeth, shaving, and lathering up your hands.

Only run full-loads in your dishwashing machine and clothes washer and save gallons each time! Want to save more? Turn off the faucet and fill up the sink to rinse dishes or don't pre-rinse dishes at all.

Retrofit older plumbing fixtures. Shower heads should use 2.0 gallons per minute or less. Kitchen faucets should be 2.5 gallons per minute or less. Bathroom faucets should be 2.0 gallons or less. Toilets should be 1.6 gallons per minute or less.

Commercial and Municipal Buildings

Assign an employee to monitor water use and water waste. Employee should implement water conservation measures, educate employees on water conservation and monitor water bills to insure reduction in use.

Find and Fix Leaks. Employees should report all leaks to building manager.

Check toilets for efficiency. Reduce toilet water use by checking for leaks and replacing older or improperly functioning parts.

Replace aerators to low-flow aerators. It's an inexpensive and easy way to save water.

Turn off air conditioners and cooling when and where it is not needed. Minimize the water used in cooling equipment in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Reduce water use when cleaning. When cleaning with water is necessary, use small budgeted amounts. Instruct clean-up crew to use less water for mopping and to sweep instead of mop, switch from wet or steam carpet cleaning methods to dry powder methods and change window cleaning schedule from periodic to an on-call/as required basis.

Shut off water supply to equipment and rooms not in use.

Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down. Monitor dissolved solids levels and blow down only when needed.

Restaurants and Commercial Kitchens

- Replace pre-rinse spray valve with a low-flow pre-rinse spray valve.
- Serve water only when requested by the customer.
- Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods.
- Turn dishwasher off when not in use. Wash full loads only.
- Pre-soak utensils and dishes in basins or plugged sinks instead of using a running water rinse.
- Recycle rinse water from the dishwasher or recirculate it to the garbage disposal.
- Wash vegetables in basins or plugged sinks; do not let water run in preparation sink.
- Use water-conserving ice makers.
- Turn off continuous flow used to clean drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island; clean trays only as needed.
- Use water from steam tables to wash cooking areas.

Laundry Facilities and Linen Suppliers

- Wash full loads only.
- Avoid excessive filter or softener back flush. Back flush only when needed.
- Recycle water where feasible consistent with state and local requirements.
- Reprogram machines to eliminate a rinse or suds cycle, if possible, and if not restricted by health regulations.
- Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water-use efficiency.

Health Care Facilities

- Turn off water required for film processing or cooling in the X-Ray department when not in use.
- Use full loads in sanitizer, sterilizer, dishwasher and washing machine consistent with infection control requirements.
- Overhaul faulty steam traps on sterilizers.

Water Utilities

- Assess water loss using the AWWA Water Audit Software.
- Test your master meters.
- Assist customers with reducing water use. Provide educational materials and residential and commercial water audits.
- Reduce response times for fixing system leaks.
- Implement a proactive leak detection program.
- Improve system maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation.

For more information on water conservation and ways to reduce water use, visit the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District online at www.northgeorgiawater.org