Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Spring 2019

Fix a Leak Week

EPA WaterSense

Flush Away Water Waste

With Fix a Leak Week coming in spring, it's time to start thinking about stopping leaks right in their tracks. Wondering where to start? Just follow three simple steps: check, twist, and replace. Since toilets are the main source of residential water use, accounting for nearly 30 percent of what we use at home, they're a likely culprit you can catch during Fix a Leak Week, March 18 through 24, 2019.

Toilet flapper. First **check** if your toilet is leaking by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back. Wait 10 minutes, and if you see the color in the bowl before flushing, chances are your toilet has a leak and could use a new flapper. You can buy toilet flappers at any hardware store for just a few dollars. Don't forget to **twist** off the water before you do it yourself!

Remove the old flapper, and **replace** it, following the easy steps in this WaterSense "bath hack" video. And if you find you need to replace an older toilet to really lick that leak, make sure you look for the WaterSense label to ensure your new commode is independently certified to use less water and perform as well or better than a standard model. Check out the Cobb County Water rebate program for our water customers.

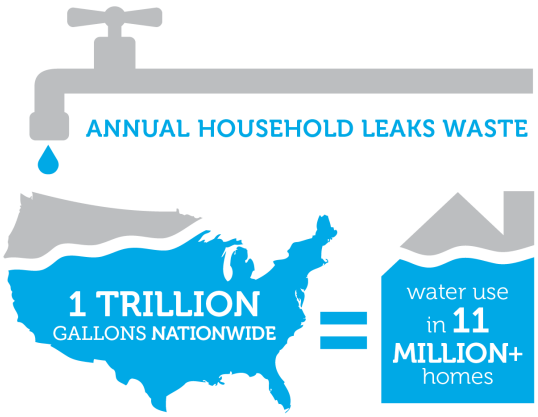
ask about WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria

For more fun flush facts, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/residential-toilets, or learn more about finding and fixing leaks during Fix a Leak Week.

Upcoming Events

For a full schedule of Cobb Water Efficiency Programs or to schedule a civic or school presentation visit **http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffEvents**, email **waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org** or call 770-419-6244

- **Fix A Leak Week • March 18 - 24, 2019.**
- **Water Drop Dash 5k, Fun Run & Water Festival** • Saturday, March 23, 2019
  • 8AM • Chattahoochee Nature Center • 9135 Willeo Road Roswell, GA 30075
- **Cobb County Middle School Model Water Tower Finals** • Saturday, April 27, 2019



Education Update

Our education programs started the second semester: attending STEM Nights, teaching about global water issues, and talking about how plants and animals adapt to drought. This winter, we had the pleasure of tabling at several STEM Nights at Cobb Elementary Schools. We brought a great activity that teaches students about Surface Tension called Drops on a Penny. The experiment involves using pipettes and slowly dropping water on a penny until the surface tension breaks. The kids went crazy over this activity and we had family members asking if they could participate too! We hope to attend more STEM Nights in the future.

We are wrapping up the fourth-grade series this Spring and closing it out with one of our favorite lessons, Georgia Species Adapting to Drought. We had five schools participate in the series this year, with their fourth graders learning all about the water cycle, water treatment, and water conservation. Keep an eye out this summer when we open up the sign-up process for next year's fourth grade series.

This year we are preparing to participate in Fix a Leak Week with the EPA's WaterSense Program, March 18th - 24th. Every year we send out Leak Detective Kits to schools who want their students to learn how to be a Leak Detective. These kits include activities for students to learn how to track their water usage and how to find sneaky leaks. If you would like a kit or if you would like more information about our program, please contact Christine Rubel at (770) 419-6374 or email at *Christine.Rubel@cobbcounty.org.*

Green School Update

Green School is wrapping up another successful year. The teacher activity logs are rolling in to our office. We already have 23 schools that have reached at least the Green School Level. Please submit your activity logs before Friday, March 29, 2019, by 5 PM. We enjoyed learning about all the environmental activities your schools have undertaken. Don't forget, if you have participated in a big environmental project this year submit for the Green Innovation Award. All information on Green School can be found at www.cobbcounty.org/greenschool.

14th Annual Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge

The Cobb County Water System and the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) congratulate the 12 Cobb County elementary school students selected as this year's winners of the 14th Annual Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge.

Cobb County fourth and fifth grade students were invited to create coloring book illustrations depicting Lake Allatoona's own ambassador, Allatoona Ally, and her friend from Cobb Water, Tappy Turtle, about water conservation. The challenge received nearly 900 entries from 11 participating schools.

The winners of the 2019 Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge include:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	STUDENT
GREEN ACRES	***Kimberli Mejia***
ADDISON	***Reyzon Bachman***
FREY	***Kenzie Pendley***
MOUNTAIN VIEW	***Saiya Rodriguez***
VARNER	***Alexsie Quiñones***
BULLARD	***Kaedyn Townsend***
GREEN ACRES	***Fernando Cortez***
HARMONY LELAND	***Gia Washington***
ADDISON	***Bianca Johnson***
SOPE CREEK	***Carrie Cotter***
BELLS FERRY	***Brynna Willoughby***
DUE WEST	***Amelia Kahle***

The illustration by Amelia Kahle at Due West Elementary was selected as the cover art for the 14th Anniversary Edition of the "Adventures of Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle" coloring book.

"I love this contest because the message is so much more powerful when children are teaching their peers," says Kathy Nguyen, Customer Service Manager at Cobb County Water System. "We are very proud of all those that participated while spreading this important message of water conservation."

"Water is an essential part of our lives, as are these children. We should care for and treasure both." said Pat Tibbitts, Program Director for waterSmart at Cobb County Marietta Water Authority.

2019 waterSmart Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Winners

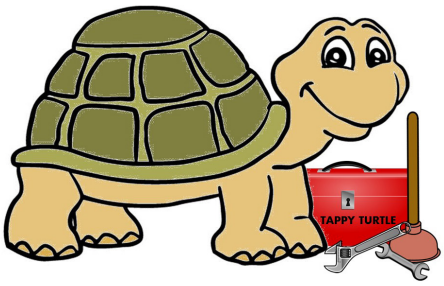
Tips from Tappy

March 18 - 24, 2019, is the USEPA WaterSense program's Fix a Leak Week.

This is the time to focus on finding and fixing household leaks.

A place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 10,000 gallons per month. You can also look for spikes – is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Learn more about your water bill: http://1.usa.gov/1Qw3Eg9.

- Leaky faucets can waste more water than you think. Most can be repaired by replacing the aerator. The water efficiency office has free aerators. Just email watereffficiency@cobbcounty.org
- Invisible leaks can sometimes be found by checking outside for unusually bright green patches of grass or looking for darkly colored patches, that are cool to the touch on the wall.
- Check for leaks after the first thaw. The changes in temperature between night and day during the winter cause pipes to expand and contract. This added stress means you're more likely to develop a leak over the winter. Get a plumber to check your lines for leaks when it warms up.
- Your irrigation system should be checked for leaks each spring. The cold winter can cause damage to the irrigation system lines.



An Unexpected Hero

The Water Efficiency Team received this letter from a customer, written by her child for school.

My Water Heroes *By Aleeza Bandukwala 5th Grade*

When you think of heroes you think of your parents, teachers, police or firefighters. But I want to tell you about someone you may not have thought of, the Cobb County Water Department.

One day we found out that our toilet was clogged. We called the plumber but he said that the right people for the job are the Cobb County Water Department.

After we explained the problem on the phone, the experts from the water department came with expensive cameras and put it down our toilet. By looking through the cameras they found out that the roots of the tree in the front yard were blocking the pipes. They determined that they will need to take the tree down.

My mom was sad that the tree was going to be removed but the workers explained to her that the tree is a River Birch and that type of tree is hydrotropic (the roots attract to even a little bit of water). They put replacement bushes for those plants that had been removed and they also fixed the road that had been damaged by their digging.

While they were replacing the pipes, I observed a man that had dug a hole so deep that when he stood in it you could not see the top of his head. If all this work was done by a private company it would have cost us about $10,000.

Just remember that without the Cobb County Water Department, you wouldn't be able to drink water, use the restroom or even take a shower!

Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall late in the winter has been well above average. Cobb is in normal conditions on the US Drought Monitor. Allatoona's current level is 832.82 feet, normal for this time of year. The stream flow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are flowing at or above normal ranges, and Lake Lanier has refilled. Cobb Water depends on releases from Lanier into the Chattahoochee River. The efficient use of our water resources is always important. Please find information about how to use water wisely at: **www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency**

Declared Water Restrictions Status: Non-Drought Status

For Irrigation – Outdoor irrigation is permitted daily before 10 AM and after 4 PM. Visit: www.cobbcounty.org/outtdoorwateringrestrictions for more information on outdoor watering rules.

Rainfall Dec. 2018 - Feb. 2019
DEC – 11.83 - inches
JAN – 6.23 - inches
FEB – 1 thru 20 – 8.27 - inches

2018 – 70.03 - Inches
ANNUAL AVG. – 49.71 - Inches (+20.32)
JAN - FEB AVG – 7.25 - Inches
SOIL MOISTURE - (32.4%)

Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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For more information:
www.cobbwater.org

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This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

To keep up with our water resources and efficiency programs and take advantage of our contests please follow Tappy Turtle on Twitter and Facebook.

April 8th is the deadline to enter the waterSmart High School H2O in HD Video Contest. Show us how you value water. For more info email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org