



Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Fall 2018

Design Your Better Bathroom With a Splash of Savings

Dreaming of your better bathroom? Now, you can realize your dream with gorgeous fixtures that work beautifully and—as a bonus—they save resources, too! Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer or working with a designer to create your vision, make sure to look for plumbing products that have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) WaterSense® label.

WaterSense labeled showerheads, faucets, and toilets are available in a wide variety of styles and price points, so there are many options to meet your design and budget. From classic to modern, these products can create the look you desire, as well as the quality you demand in a dream bathroom. Every fixture that earns the WaterSense label has been tested and independently certified for both water efficiency and performance.

By reducing the amount of water that needs to be heated while you shower and shave, WaterSense labeled fixtures also save energy. Every year, your family could save 10,000 gallons of water and 370 kilowatt-hours of electricity—enough water to wash laundry for 11 months and enough energy to power your refrigerator for 7 months! Even better, WaterSense labeled fixtures pay for themselves quickly and keep saving money. Remodeling an older bathroom with WaterSense labeled fixtures can save up to \$150 annually on your utility bills. Cobb County Water System has toilet rebates and free fixtures, to help make your dream bathroom a reality without breaking the bank. Visit www.cobbcounty.org/indoorwaterefficiency for more information

Simple “Bath Hacks” for a Better Bathroom
Not ready for a full remodel? There are a few simple steps you can take—check out these “bath hacks” and start saving right away:

- Switching your showerhead to a WaterSense labeled model saves 2,700 gallons of water annually and enough energy to power your home for 11 days.
- Replacing the aerators on your faucets with WaterSense labeled models saves 700 gallons of water and enough energy to power your hair dryer every year.

Your better bathroom starts with WaterSense. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to learn more, or start searching for the perfect WaterSense labeled products to fit your style today.

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

waterSmart waterArt Reception -
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 6:30-8:00 PM
Big Shanty Art Station - 2050 Kennesaw Due West Rd. NW Kennesaw, GA 30152

Imagine a Day Without Water - October 10, 2018. Brings to the forefront the value of municipal water and wastewater treatment and the infrastructure involved. Visit Tappy Productions and watch our staff navigate *The Water Void*. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8vsg53OsNB_Muurl3EohFg?view_as=subscriber



#YourBetterBathroom

Education Update

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2

FALL 2018

The Water Efficiency Team is full steam ahead for the 2018-2019 school year! We are scheduling programs, both old and new, for schools across the county. Our new programs include a lesson for middle and high school students called, Water, Water Anywhere. This lesson helps students understand water scarcity around the world through an interactive, hands on activity that challenge the students to think critically about the global water crisis. Students at Pebblebrook High School traveled around the world represented by three stations embodying Physical Water Scarcity, Economic Water Scarcity, and Water Abundance. Through each station they gained a better understanding of the value of public water supply and the need to conserve these valuable water resources.

Early and continued water education at all grade levels is crucial to understanding earth systems and raising future water stewards. We are proud to provide FREE water lessons for students K-12. Our hands-on lessons engage students in understanding the natural and man-made water cycle, the global water crisis, water treatment, conservation, and species ability to adapt to drought. Schedule these engaging lessons where students can have fun while strengthening their STEM skills. If you would like to schedule a lesson for your students, please contact Christine Rubel at (770) 419-6374 or Christine.Rubel@cobbcounty.org.



Green School Update

We are excited to begin the 11th year of Cobb County's Green School Program. Many schools have turned in their applications and some teachers are already submitting activity logs for the year. If you have not completed your school's application please do. This provides us with the contact information for your school's coordinator. All green school information and updates go to the school coordinator and they share it with their teachers. We provide quarterly status updates to let you know about green program opportunities and an updated teacher list. When you submit an activity log you should receive an electronic version of the green teacher letter within a few days. If you submit a log and do not receive a letter it is likely we did not receive the log. Coordinators will get the updated lists and if you have submitted a log but do not see your name please contact us at waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org All information on Green School can be found at www.cobbcounty.org/greenschool.

Imagine a Day Without Water

If you've never experienced it before, it's hard to imagine a day without water. From the very moment you get up until the time you go to bed, reliable water and wastewater service is readily available. We rarely think that we are clean, healthy, working, learning, eating, and enjoying our life because of the availability of clean, safe drinking water, sanitation and the pipes and plants that provide it.

Most citizens recognize that water is essential to our quality of life. In fact, the vast majority of Americans want us to be proactive and invest in our nation's water infrastructure before systems fail.

Renewed investment in our water infrastructure isn't only about avoiding a day without water for personal use. A day without water would mean havoc for businesses and our economy too. Basically, every business is a water reliant business in one way or another.

According to the Value of Water Campaign's report on The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure, a one-day disruption in water services at a national level would result in a \$43.5 billion daily sales loss to businesses.

Investment in water infrastructure has not been a national priority for decades. The federal government's investment has declined precipitously, making maintaining infrastructure a local responsibility. Cobb County Water System strives to proactively maintain our infrastructure in order to ensure that citizens needs are met now and into the future. Maintaining, upgrading, and replacing this valuable infrastructure has real costs. **Imagine cont. Pg. 4**



Did You Know?

September is
#BuildABetterBathroom
month

Did you know showers are the largest indoor water waster? Reduce your indoor water use by as much as one-third by simply switching your old showerheads for an EPA WaterSense labeled showerhead.

Cobb Water has free WaterSense labeled showerheads that use only 1.5 gallons per minute while maintaining their water pressure. Email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org if you are interested in receiving an efficient showerhead.

Time to adjust your sprinkler schedule

As the weather cools down and the days are shorter, lawns and plants don't need as much water. Change your sprinkler timer now and remember to turn it off when it rains.

Better yet, invest in an EPA WaterSense Labeled weather-based irrigation controller and become a better water manager through improved technology!

Fall is the Time to Plant in Georgia

Planting trees or other shrubs in the Fall is the best time to get great results in the South. Lower temperatures slow down growth, allowing safe transplanting. The plant's roots "concentrate" on growing, rather than supporting the moisture and other needs of the top part of the plant.

Allowing the plant to establish a deep and stable root system during the colder months means a healthier, heartier plant that requires less water and inputs during the demanding spring and summer growing season. Remember to mulch so that the roots are protected from the cold weather.

