

It's time for you to Be Water Wise!



This October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Cobb County Water System are promoting Shower Better Month to encourage homeowners to take one simple action: replace an old showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model. Showering is one of the leading ways we use water in the home, accounting for 20 percent of residential indoor water use. Whether you are remodeling your bathroom or just looking for ways to save energy, water, and money, look for the WaterSense label on showerheads that use 20 percent less water and are independently certified to provide the spray force and water coverage for a satisfying shower.

Drops Need Watts

Water and energy work together. Have you ever picked up a gallon of water or milk from the fridge? It's pretty heavy, right? A lot of energy is used to carry every gallon of water you use from a drinking water source to a treatment plant that makes it safe to drink. After water leaves the treatment plant, more energy is needed to carry it through water pipes to your house. Imagine the journey it has taken—and just how tired you would be after carrying that much water all day!

And the work doesn't stop there. If you want that water to be hot, it takes energy to warm it up before it hits the tap. Here's some food for thought—the energy it takes to treat and deliver the water that just 10 houses use in a year could power your home's refrigerator for six years!

That's why it's so important not to waste water at home, work, or school. Don't leave the water on when you brush your teeth. Make sure to turn off the faucet all the way after you wash your hands. If water drips from the faucet after you turn it off, it could be a leak. Repair the leak as quickly as you can. One of the best places to save both water and energy at home is in your shower. Besides taking shorter showers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program has some tips for how you and your family can "shower better."

Showering Facts

The shower is a place where we can clean up, cool off, wake up, or relax after a long day. But it's also a place where we waste a lot of water and energy! Consider this:

- The average shower lasts about eight minutes. Since the average showerhead has a water flow of 2.1 gallons per minute, each shower uses more than 16 gallons of water!
- Across the United States, we use more than one trillion gallons of water each year just for showering.

Never fear! You and your family can still save water and energy. WaterSense has a special label for showerheads that use less water but still provides a great spray of water when you shower. If your family uses a WaterSense labeled showerhead:

- Every shower, you'll save enough electricity to power a 60-watt light bulb for nearly 7 hours.
- Every year, you'll save the amount of water it takes to wash more than 88 loads of laundry. That's a lot of dirty clothes!