

# WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER IN THE HOME AND YARD

## UPSON COUNTY WATER CUSTOMERS

### Water conservation in the home:

#### 1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks.

A small drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons of water a day.

#### 2. Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or waste basket.

Every flush can use three to seven gallons of water.

#### 3. Check your toilets for leaks.

Put a little food color in the toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak.

#### 4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks.

You can come to the water office and we will assist you how to do so.

#### 5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.

Low -flow means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.

#### 6. Put plastic bottles or float booster in your toilet tank.

Put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two bottles to weigh them down. Fill the bottles with water. This can save up to ten or more gallons per day. Make sure the bottles are safely away from operating mechanisms.

#### 7. Insulate your water pipes.

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. Not only will it help to keep pipes from freezing but will help you get hot water to the faucet faster.

#### 8. Take shorter showers.

One way to cut down on water use is to turn off shower after getting wet, soap up, and then turn it back on to rinse. A Four minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

#### 9. Turn off the water after wetting toothbrush.

Wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

#### 10. Rinse your razor in the sink.

Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

11. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads.

Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings.

12. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units.

In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly, and also add considerably to the volume of solids going into the septic tank.

13. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.

If you have a double basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water.

14. Don't let the faucet run while cleaning vegetables.

15. Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the fridge.

Running tap water to cool it off is wasteful.

Water conservation in the yard and garden:

16. Plant drought-restraint lawns, shrubs and plants.

17. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.

18. Water your lawn only when it needs it.

19. Water during the early parts of the day.

20. Avoid watering during windy days.

21. Add organic matter to the plant soil.

22. Don't run the hose while washing your car.

23. Use a broom, not a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.