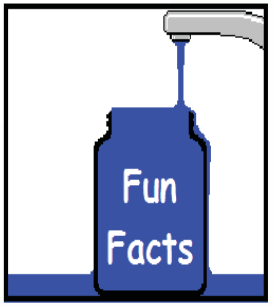
Water Conservation



Over half of all water use inside a house takes place in the bathroom.

The average American uses 140-170 gallons of water per day.

One flush of the toilet uses 6 ½ gallons of water.

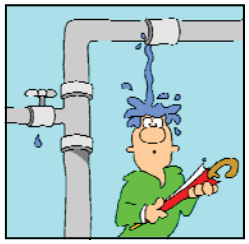
You use about 5 gallons of water if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth.

If you water your grass and trees more heavily, but less often, this saves water and builds stronger roots.

Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.

97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for consumption by all living creatures, including plants and animals.

Every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires another two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass.



Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. Saves 20 gallons per day for every leak stopped. Not only lowering your usage, but your water bill also.

Glossary

Water Conservation - Using water wisely and efficiently so that it is not wasted.

Aquifer – An underground layer of rock, sand, or gravel capable of storing water within cracks and pore spaces, or between grains. When water contained within an aquifer is of sufficient quantity and quality, it can be tapped and used for drinking or other purposes. The water contained in the aquifer is called ground water.

Ground Water – Water that is trapped underground in an area of porous material. Most wells tap ground water. This water recharges slowly and is difficult to clean if it becomes contaminated.

Recharge –Replenishment of a groundwater reservoir (aquifer) by the addition of water.

Water Table – The upper surface of the water saturated soil.

Recharge—The addition of water to the zone of saturation

For More Information

To find more information about Louisiana water conservation visit the Louisiana Earth 911 web site at http://louisiana.earth911.org

Parts of this brochure were obtained from materials published by the Louisiana Ground Water Management Commission.

Caddo Parish Commission
Public Works Department
505 Travis Street (Suite 820)
Shreveport, LA. 71101

Conserving Caddo's Water Supply

Water Conservation

As Louisiana realizes that its fresh water supply is not infinite, it becomes the responsibility of the individual stakeholder to do what they can to *conserve* their water supply. *Conservation* of one's water supply in the home simply means using the water resource more efficiently inside and outside the house.

What is Ground Water?

Ground water is water that lies beneath the land surface. It originates as precipitation then migrates through surface soil to the *water table* or the zone of saturation. Ground water is usually in motion unless restricted by a natural or man made structure. The ground water may eventually discharge into a spring, stream, or ocean. The ground water flows in rock or soil formations called *aquifers*.

Why should I be concerned about Ground Water?

Over the last few decades drought and an increase in withdrawals have led to concerns that the aquifers are being utilized faster than they can be recharged. This causes declines in ground water levels and the lack of sustainability of the aquifer.

Reducing your water use can mean substantial savings on your sewer, energy and water bills!!

What's being done?

As a result of concerns over the current decline in ground water levels and the projected increase in ground water needs for the future, the Louisiana legislature adopted Act No. 446 (2001), (see other pamphlets for information) which "declares (ground water resources) to be a matter of public interest. … Ground water must be managed, protected, and regulated in the best interests of all the citizens of the state."

How is this effecting underground Aquifers?

Depletion of some underground aquifers and the ever-increasing intrusion of salt water mean we are using our drinking water faster than nature replaces it.

What about Rain Water?

You probably don't realize that the rain falling on homes, lawns and driveways eventually finds its way into bayous, lakes and rivers, carrying our pollution with it. Landscaping your property is one way to help reduce the erosive force of all this unwanted runoff.

Because Louisiana has such a wet climate and has never experienced serious water shortages, most people don't think about conserving water. But now, water conservation is increasingly important.

Water Efficiency Tips

Save Water in the Lawn – Many suburban lawns receive twice as much water than what is needed to maintain healthy grass!

Give your lawn the "footprint test": If footprints remain visible after walking on the lawn, or the grass has a dull green color or the blades are curled, the grass needs water.

Save Water in the House— The first step in conserving water around your home is to check for and eliminate any leaks in faucets, toilets, hoses and pipes. even during rainy weather.

Home Maintenance—Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak.