

# Wise Water Use

## Cobb County Water Efficiency Audit

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

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*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

## First Steps

Maintaining your plumbing system is the first step to preventing water loss. The plumbing system is a vital part of your home and regular inspection can save water and money.

### Checking for Hidden Plumbing Leaks

Your plumbing system consists of all the pipe and fixtures that are on your property after the water meter connection. Cold, dark, or discolored patches on walls and ceilings can indicate a leaking service line in your home. Bright green patches, sunken and eroded land, or standing water in your yard can mean a service line leak. These leaks are very serious and require immediate repair to prevent massive water loss and potential property damage. Older homes should schedule annual plumbing inspections by a licensed plumber.

### Checking Your Meter

Turn off all the water on your property. Open your meter vault (meter cover) if a small triangle or sweep arm is spinning you have a leak. Read your meter's consumption, record the reading. Wait 10 minutes. Reread your meter, if the number is greater than the first read you have a leak.

### Toilet Leaks

Place a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. Do not flush the toilet. After fifteen minutes, check the water in the bowl for color. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak. It is most likely the flapper. Not all flappers fit all toilets. Visit [www.toiletflapper.org](http://www.toiletflapper.org) to find the correct flapper for your toilet.

### Faucet Leaks

Turn off faucet completely. Place a measuring cup or glass under the faucet. Check the cup in fifteen minutes, 1 cup = 300 gallons of water a month. It is probably just a washer. A new aerator is an inexpensive fix. Check your faucet by placing your finger against water spout. If you feel a screen, you have an aerator. Unscrew the aerator to clean or replace it. Low flow aerators that use less water are available through the water efficiency program.

## How Water Efficient Is Your Home?

To determine how much water each person in your household uses, follow these simple steps.

Using your water bill determine how many gallons of water you used in a month. (8,000).

Divide that number by the "days in period" on your water bill ( $8,000/30 = 267$ ). That's how much water your family uses per day.

Divide the use per day by the number of people in your home ( $267/4 = 67$ ).

### Efficient Use

Winter: 45-60  
Summer: 65-80

### Average Use

Winter: 60-70  
Summer: 80-91

### Inefficient Use

Winter: Above 70  
Summer: Above 91

# Are You a Wise Water User?

## Indoor Efficiency

- Was your home built before 1993? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many bathrooms do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the square footage? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_
- What was your per person water use? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you and your family take baths or showers? \_\_\_\_\_
- If you take baths, how full is the tub? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many minutes do you shower? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you turn the water off when you brush your teeth, shave, or wash your face? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you use a dishwasher? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is it EnergyStar labeled? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you rinse your dishes before you load them in the dishwasher? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many times a week do you run your dishwasher? \_\_\_\_\_
- If you wash by hand, do you fill the sink or a basin to wash? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you run your dishwasher only when it is full? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many times a week do you use your washing machine? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is it an EnergyStar labeled washing machine? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is it full when you run it? \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you remodeled your home and replaced high water using fixtures? \_\_\_\_\_
- Were they WaterSense labeled fixtures? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you interested in receiving information and materials to save water?  
Please Check your area(s) of interest.
- Indoor information and materials. \_\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor information and materials. \_\_\_\_\_

Detach Here



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out Cobb County Water System's Water Efficiency Audit. We would like to provide you with water efficiency information and devices based on your survey answers.

**Please detach and return the audit form to:**  
**Cobb County Water Efficiency Program**  
**Cobb County Water System**  
**or Fax to: (770) 419-6478**

Customer Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Cobb County Water Efficiency Program**  
**Cobb County Water System**  
**660 South Cobb Drive**  
**Marietta, GA 30060-3113**