

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

WATER MATTERS

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The Why's & How's of Conserving Water

We seem to be surrounded by water; 71% of our planet is covered with water and we have three rivers flowing through our very city. So why is water so precious and why should we make changes in our lives to conserve it?

On a global scale, only a small percentage of water is available to us for use and consumption. 97% of Earth's water contains salt, and of that remaining 3%, 80% of THAT is frozen at the poles. Then one must factor in that 99.5% of THAT is unavailable because it is too far underground, polluted or trapped in soil. This leaves .003% of Earth's water available for humans to use!

So what are some simple things we can do to conserve water in our homes?

- ◆ Don't pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. Use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- ◆ Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year!
- ◆ Try turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.
- ◆ Instead of using running water to thaw foods, defrost food overnight in the refrigerator, or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- ◆ Make sure your home is leak-free. When you are certain that no water is being used in your home, take a reading of the water meter. Wait 30 minutes and then take a second reading. If the meter reading changes, you have a leak!
- ◆ In your landscaping, try planting grasses and plants that are native to our area; native species usually require less water and fertilizers than non-native species.
- ◆ If replacing toilets or showerheads, consider installing models that use less water.
- ◆ Consider using a rain barrel; they collect the water coming from your gutters during rainfall. This water can then be used to water your lawn or wash your car.