

Water Smart

- A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water. If a human does not absorb enough water dehydration is the result.
- Water leaves the stomach five minutes after consumption.
- The human body is made up of 66% water.
- The EPA reports that groundwater supplies serve about 80% of the population, and that 1% to 4% of usable groundwater is already polluted.
- Water freezes at zero degrees Celsius and water vaporizes at a hundred degrees Celsius.
- The EPA estimates that 25% of all Americans get their water from private wells. The remaining population uses some 60,000 public water systems (nearly two thirds of these serve populations of 500 or fewer).
- Some places, like deserts, get less than an inch (25 mm) of water a year; while others, like tropical rain forests, may get more than 400 inches (10,000 mm) a year.
- Not a drop of water is gained or lost. The water cycle naturally recycles Earth's water, we drink and use the same water as the dinosaurs.
- You might think that absolutely pure water would be perfectly clear and utterly transparent, but it's actually blue. The blue color of the water in the oceans (and not the blue of the sky) is the reason why Earth is mostly blue as seen from space.
- Frozen water is 9% lighter than water, which is why ice floats on water.
- If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.
- Bottled water can be up to 1000 times more expensive than tap water and it may not be as safe.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The quickest, cheapest, and most effective way to reduce water consumption is to simply conserve. It is therefore, everyone's responsibility to do their part in water conservation.

Here are a few tips on how we as a community can get involved.

- Be aware of and follow all water conservation and water shortage rules in effect in your community. Don't assume — even if you get water from a private well — that you need not observe good water use rules. Every drop Counts.
- Encourage your employer to promote water conservation in the workplace. Suggest that water conservation be put in employee orientation and training programs.
- Support projects that will lead to increased use of reclaimed water for irrigation and other uses.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community and to "do their part".
- Conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because someone else is footing the bill, such as when you stay at a hotel.
- Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts. Remember you can make a difference.

Portions of this brochure were gathered from the Louisiana Office of Conservation.

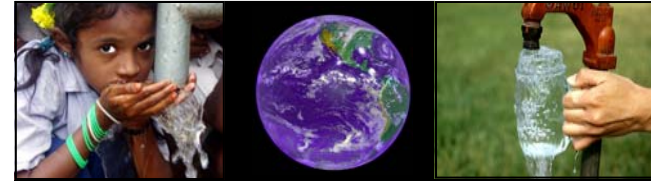


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Preserving
Our
Water



Caddo Water Supply



Why Conserve Water ?

The simplest answer is that conserving water saves money — in many cases, very significant amounts of money. If you depend on your own well and septic system, the hundreds of gallons of water released each day will, over a period of a year, saturate the soil near the septic system adsorption field to be the point where extensive repair or replacement is necessary. Replacing a septic system costs \$2,000 to \$4,000. Conserving water can extend the life of the system and delay the need for repair.



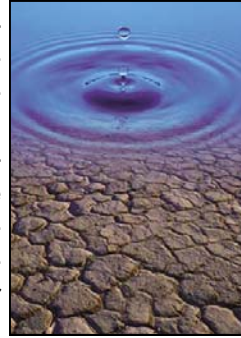
If you live in an area serviced by a municipal system, the greater your water use, the more you pay for water and sewer service. In some communities, costly sewage system expansion has been avoided by community wide household water conservation.

In addition to saving money, water conservation helps tremendously in preventing water pollution. Old, leaky or poorly designed septic systems may cause nutrient and bacterial contamination of nearby lakes, streams and drinking water, even the water from our own well. Overloading municipal sewer systems can also cause untreated sewage to flow to lakes and rivers. The smaller the amount of water flowing through these systems, the lower the likelihood of pollution.



The Wilcox Aquifer

The water supply for Caddo Parish is sufficient but is not infinite. Therefore, the Caddo Parish Commission, City of Shreveport, and LSU-Shreveport have joined together to monitor water levels throughout the Parish. Five test wells will strategically be placed within the Parish, that will help us better measure how much water is being pulled from our local Aquifer.



It is also the responsibility of citizens within Caddo to do what they can to conserve their water supply. Our concern is that with a 3% increase in ground water use from 1995 to 2000, combined with recent droughts the Wilcox Aquifer has been heavily stressed.

It is our hope that through proper research and maintenance the sustainability of the Wilcox aquifer can be increased and support the current demands of the public without causing unacceptable environmental economic, social, or health consequences.

While effective management and planning in the utilization of water resources is important, efficient use of water resources can not be accomplished without your assistance. Inefficient water use causes unnecessary strain on the aquifer's ability to keep up with the demand for water. If every one could conserve water by only a few gallons per day the stress on the aquifer could be significantly reduced.



Conserving Water Inside

Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a brick in the tank to displace toilet flows.

Check your toilet for leaks. Put food coloring or a dye tablet into the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes. Check the bowl - if water is colored, you have a leak.

Capture the water you let run while waiting for hot water; and use it for indoor or outdoor plants .

Conserving Water Outside

The major outside uses of water are watering lawns and gardens, washing cars and filling pools.

How do you know when your plants need water? Use the "finger test." Simply poke your finger a few inches into the soil and if it is moist, don't water.

To conserve moisture in the soil, use a leaf rake to gently pull back existing mulch. Then, place two to three sheets of newspaper on the soil surface, moisten it, and rake the mulch back over the newspaper. Newspaper will serve as an added barrier to moisture loss.

Maintain a lawn height of 2 ½ to 3 inches to help protect the roots from heat stress and reduce the loss of moisture to evaporation.

Water trees about 2 feet away from the trunk to just under the drop line. Most roots are in this zone, up to about 1 foot deep. Directing water to this area helps get water to where the tree can most easily use it.