

Water Conservation for your Business

Commercial water usage is down, and that's good news. However, our commercial water customers could conserve even more water by implementing the following tips:

- Educate employees and co-workers about water scarcity issues. Stress that water conservation practices save water and money.
- Monitor usage via monthly water bill statements to establish baseline use.
- Identify and fix leaks. Look for unexplained trends of increased usage, conduct regular inspections of areas where leaks could occur, check equipment and install monitoring or sub-meter systems.
- Maximize cooling tower efficiency. High volumes of water can be lost as water vapor while performing the cooling function.
- Install water-efficient equipment, such as
 1. ultra-low-flow toilets (adjust flush valves or install dams on existing toilets);
 2. faucet aerators and high efficiency shower heads;
 3. use water-conserving icemakers; and,
 4. replace worn out appliances and equipment with water-efficient models.
- Minimize the amount of water used for indoor and outdoor cleaning.

These water-saving tips come courtesy of Georgia's Drought Response Unified Command (DRUC), which encourages residential and non-residential users such as businesses to conserve as much water as possible on a daily basis. (www.droughtjic.org, www.conservewatergeorgia.net)

Commercial water users can visit www.atlantawatershed.org/drought to view the Department of Watershed Management's large water user conservation workshop, available on video. A conservation workshop focusing on outdoor water use for high-volume customers will be held this spring.



What are YOU doing to
CONSERVE WATER?

Love Your Heart – Drink Water

February is American Heart Month, and one way to keep your heart – and the rest of you – healthy is to drink at least eight glasses of water (64 ounces) each day.



Please continue to conserve water so there will always be enough for drinking and other essential purposes.

Important Numbers to Remember

Customer Service: 404-658-6500
Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
Customer Service E-mail: watershedhelp@atlwater.com

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Protect Your Pipes

Atlanta residents know how changeable the weather can be. From one day to the next, particularly during the winter months, temperatures can vary as much as 40 degrees. When temperatures fall below 32 degrees, pipes that are exposed to severe outdoor temperatures, as well as pipes that run through unheated areas such as basements, crawl spaces, garages, and even cabinets, can freeze.

Rather than tempting fate, try these tips:

- A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to prevent pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. However, this water should be captured in a container and used for other household purposes. It should not be wasted by allowing it to go down the drain. Also, remember to close all faucets when the temperature rises above freezing. Do not allow faucets to drip unnecessarily.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

Prior to cold weather, consider these options:

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.
- Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent

testing organiza-

tion, such as

Underwriters

Laboratories Inc.,

and only for the

use intended (exterior or interior). Closely

follow all manufacturers' installation and

operation instructions.

- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

- Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

The preceding tips are reprinted courtesy of DRUC.



Super Water Saver – The Standard

Located at 327 Memorial Drive, The Standard is a local restaurant/bar where water conservation is the norm. Owner/Manager Chris Johnson put several water conservation measures in place while renovating the building, which had been a service station. "Plumbing is the system where you can spend the least amount for the most return," he says. With that in mind, Johnson installed two waterless urinals in the men's restroom, three 1.6-gallon tankless flush toilets and tankless water heaters.

In addition, Johnson has installed .7-gallon-per-minute aerators on seven sinks and a 2-gallon-

per-minute aerator on the dish-washing sink.

Besides plumbing fixtures, Johnson has also instituted a policy of only serving tap water when customers ask for it. When customers do ask for water, they are served in 20-ounce glasses rather than 32-ounce glasses to minimize waste.

In the future, Johnson hopes to install a cistern on the back of the building to collect water for flushing the toilets. "I'd also like to install another cistern on the other side of the roof to catch water for our plants," he says.