

Why Should We Conserve Water

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Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth? Do you take a thirty minute shower every night? If you answered yes to either of these, then you are wasting water maybe without even knowing it. For example, leaving the water running when brushing your teeth wastes about two gallons of water per minute, and for a family of four that is 200 gallons a week. That is a lot of wasted water! For households in Forsyth County, Georgia daily water use may include laundry, gardening, cooking and drinking water and household cleaning. On average a person will use more than 50-75 gallons of water a day!

Growing and growing Forsyth County welcomes new residents each and every year. In 2015 Forsyth County was ranked one of the fastest growing county in the whole state of Georgia! With all of these new residents arriving, where is the water actually coming from? Lake Lanier is the biggest source of water for our county. But with our population growing at an increasing rate, will we be able to meet the water demands?

On our planet there is plenty of fresh drinkable water to support all of the world's population; however it may not always be available where, when and in the quantities needed. For example, in 2007 Lake Lanier's water levels were in a critical state, there was a drought. This downfall led

to adding water usage restrictions to conserve water. In the summer, water use is typically 2-4 times as high as in winter months. Some of the reasons for this increase are longer showers, car washing, filling water bottles and outdoor water activities. But the largest use of water in the summer goes towards lawns and landscape irrigation.

What can we do as individuals to conserve water and will it really make a difference? Life's daily tasks can add up to a lot of wasted water, but small changes can make a big difference. Did you know that every minute while showering you are using approximately 2.1 gallons of water. A simple change like shortening your shower to 5 minutes or less can save a great deal of water. Some other things people can do to save water are to always do full loads when using the washing machine or dishwasher, turn off the faucet when scrubbing dishes and pans, install low flow toilets, check for any plumbing leaks, water yards in the early morning, plant drought resistant plants, and those are just a few of the water changes that can make a big difference.

All life on Earth needs water to survive. We take for granted that water will always be there for us, but that is not the case. Water is used faster than it can be restored, so conserving water is essential to maintaining our water supply today and in the future. Small changes made on a daily basis to conserve water will ensure our water supply is abundant in the future.