

It's going down the drain....

Water that is... Did you know the average American flushes about 9000 gallons of water down the drain each year! This seems like an amazing amount of water until you find out that most showers dump about 20,000 gallons down the drain. Water is of course a natural resource. So, why don't we treat it like one?

There are a lot of things you can do as homeowners to conserve water and keep some of that green in your wallet. Remember you pay for both water and sewer, on a quarterly bases. Wouldn't it be great to save money and preserve a natural resource?

Here are a few tips for you and your family to employee. First ask each person you shorten their shower by 2 minute. In 2 minute most showers dump 9 gallons down the drain. So, in a year one person can reduce what they are using by 3000 gallons. Another quick fix in the shower is to use a water saver. This cuts the water per minute to 2.5 gallons. Second, replace your toilets with low flow toilets or High Efficiency Toilets (HET). If your house has old toilets, you are sending about 9 gallons down the drain with each flush. There are several toilets on the market that conserve water and flush well. Look for gravity assisted toilets, flapper-less toilets, and pressure assisted toilets. The third thing you might consider; point of source hot water heaters. These heaters are installed at the valve, meaning water isn't running down the drain while you wait for the hot water to get to the tap. The amount of water wasted waiting for the hot water to get to the tap is amazing.

There are also techniques you can employ outside of your home to save water. Consider rerouting your rain drainage system to a tank in lieu of the sewer. This water can be collected and used to water the grass and vegetation. You can also use it to wash the car, boat, or clean the house. There are more expansive grey water systems that collect all of the grey water from the house. However, plumbing changes will be required to separate the grey water from the black water. According to the EPA, a family reusing their grey water, can reduce their total annual consumption by 50%.

As Americans, we use water as if there is an endless supply. This is just not true and we are putting a huge burden on our water treatment facilities. Reducing the amount of water you send down the drain is a simple task that will pay of big in the future.