Keep Our Water Clean

We all live in a **Watershed** - - the area that drains to the nearest stream, or lake, eventually to the ocean. Our actions in the watershed can directly affect these valuable water resources. In addition to conserving water, we must keep it clean in order to have a safe, dependable water supply for the future.

The watershed of the Trinity River includes Denton, Collin and Dallas Counties and three major water supply sources: Lewisville Lake, Ray Roberts Lake, and Grapevine Lake.

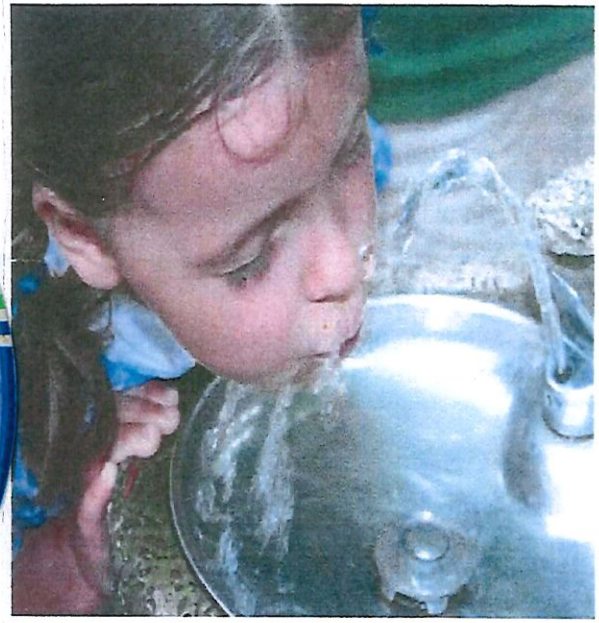
Tips on keeping our water clean and free from harmful contaminants:

- ***Properly dispose of household hazardous waste; such as paint, used oil, chemicals, and pesticides.***
- ***Use native and adaptive plants; they require less water and fertilizers - - thus, both conserving water and protecting water quality.***
- ***Never pour grease or oil down a drain because it pollutes the water and could clog your drain.***

To learn how you can safely dispose of your household hazardous waste, please visit www.utrwd.com.

Water...

A Resource for Life



Ways to Save and Protect Our Water Resources

Water, many agree, is our most precious natural resource; without it, life ceases. With the turn of a handle, you get as much as you want, whenever you want it. Yet judging by our water-use practices, many people take water for granted.

North Texas residents last got a taste of what it's like to live with little water in the 1950's, when a long, scorching drought left the region thirsting for water. On behalf of its Members and Customers, Upper Trinity Regional Water District has planned ahead for an adequate water supply, and good stewardship will help preserve and extend the supply.

The following tips will help each of us preserve and protect our water supply.

1 ***Plant native and adaptive plants.*** There are many beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers that thrive on much less water than traditional landscape plantings. Check out *txsmartscape.com* for some great ideas.

2 ***Water your lawn less frequently, only once or twice per week.*** Apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week throughout the growing season, 1 inch every two weeks during dormancy.

3 ***Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground.*** Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.

4 ***Water lawns, gardens and landscapes early in the morning.*** 40 to 60 percent of the water can be lost to evaporation if watering during heat of the day.

5 ***Mulch around trees and shrubs using a two-to-four-inch layer of tree bark, leaves, straw or compost.*** Mulching adds nutrients, protects the roots from heat, and holds in moisture.

6 ***Water new trees (less than 2 years old) every 7 to 10 days during a drought or throughout the regular growing season,*** every 3 to 4 weeks during normal dormancy.

7 ***Keep foundations & shrubs watered. Apply water to soil 1 foot to 18 inches from the foundation.*** Make sure soil is moist evenly around the foundation.

During the summer, nearly half of the water used by homeowners is used outside. Changing your outdoor water use habits can make a big difference on your water bill.

8 ***Take shorter showers and install water-saving showerheads.*** At five to ten gallons per minute, a ten minute shower can use as much as 100 gallons of water.

9 ***Wash only full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.*** Each run uses 15 to 30 gallons of water. Make sure to use a smaller load setting if you're washing just a few things.

10 ***Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.*** Wet your toothbrush, then fill a glass with water you need for rinsing.

11 ***Check for and repair toilet leaks and dripping faucets.*** Toilets are notorious for leaks, sometimes wasting as much as 100 gallons of water a day.

12 ***Use a bucket of water to wash your car or dog. Also, use a broom, not a water hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.*** A continuously running hose can waste up to 75 gallons of water in just 15 minutes or 300 gallons per hour.

To learn more about water conservation, please contact your local water utility.

CORINTH
Gateway to Success

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Prepared by Upper Trinity Regional Water District in cooperation with its Members.