

Water Conservation Measures in Maryland

Capacity Development for New Systems COMAR 26.04.01.36.G(b) - requires a plan for tracking unaccounted for water. This regulation is intended to keep systems informed about how much water is lost through leaks in the distribution system.

Systems Requesting Funding – High leak rates may threaten the future financial stability of the water system. Therefore, in order to be eligible for funding, a corrective plan of action is required.

Appropriations

- **Beneficial Use** COMAR 26.17.06.05.A - The Department shall issue a permit only for beneficial appropriation or use. Beneficial appropriation or use includes uses of water that are nonwasteful. During the review of appropriations permit applications, the Department may require a permittee to determine unaccounted water.
- **Water Conservation Fixtures** COMAR 26.17.06.04.A (8) – Applicants for annual average appropriations of 10,000 gallons per day or greater must certify on a form provided by the Department that water-conserving fixtures will conform with the State Plumbing Code’s water conservation technology regulation.

Wasting Well Water Section 9-1310 Annotated Code of Maryland – prohibits the discharge of well water that is allowed to run to waste and not put to useful service.

County Water and Sewage Plans COMAR 26.03.01.07 requires that each county water and sewage plan complies with the Maryland Water Conservation Plumbing Fixtures Act (MWCPFA).

Maryland Department of the Environment Website contains water conservation tips for businesses.

School Talks / Public Education

Encourage Installation of Meters & Repair of Leaks

Plumbing Code

- **Water Conservation** COMAR 09.20.01.02.H(1) – includes language to require that water closets use 1.6 gallons of water or less and urinals use 1.0 gallons or less.
- **Water Conservation Fixtures** COMAR 09.20.01.02.J(9) & §12-605 – 12-607 Annotated Code of Maryland – prohibits the installation or sale of a plumbing fixture which is not an approved plumbing fixture.