**HOME SITE WATER NEEDS CHECKLIST**

Water is the most common substance found on Earth.

The amount of water on Earth hasn’t changed since the Earth was formed.

So why conserve water?? There is not always enough clean, fresh water for drinking, growing food, use in industry and recreation. So, we either need to use less or get it from someplace else. When water is removed from one place and moved to another, it changes the environment for plants and animals. When excessive amounts of water are used, the amount of wastewater sent to treatment facilities and septic tanks also increases. Using water takes a great amount of energy—to clean, pump, distribute, and heat it. You can save approximately 4 gallons of water each day just by turning off the water when you brush your teeth!

1. If you get your drinking water from a well, do you test for nitrates, bacteria or other contaminants? (If you live near a farm, factory, dry cleaning business or salvage yard, there may be specific contaminants you should test for.
2. If you get your drinking water from a public treated water supply, have you ever contacted your water supplier or local health department to get results of tests for nitrates, bacteria, or pesticides?
3. Do you use sand or cat litter on icy sidewalks instead of salt? Commercial salt can be harmful to grass, trees, flowers, animals, and can run off into nearby waterbodies.
4. Do you have backflow prevention devices on outdoor water faucets (including the fill hose for swimming pool) to prevent contaminants from getting mixed into the indoor water supply?
5. Do you use cleaning products which don’t contain hazardous products? (alternatives include baking soda, vinegar, citrus solvent, soap flakes, and other products which are not hazardous to health)
6. Have you ever had the water in your house or apartment tested for lead? (If your house or apartment was built before 1984, the water pipes may have lead solder in them. If it was built prior to 1939, it may have lead pipes. This lead could contaminate your water.)
7. Do you take hazardous wastes such as used motor oil, leftover paint, varnish, etc. to an oil recycling center, hazardous waste disposal site or an annual clean up day in your community?

How does your family or the city keep track of how much water your home uses? Is there a water meter?

What is your family or landlord doing about water issues?

What is the top priority need for water conservation or pollution prevention in your home? Why?