

SAVE IT – DON'T WASTE IT

By Johnny Thornton

Water is a valuable necessity. It is a life support for all living things. We cannot do without it. This is why we should try and preserve it as much as possible.

Recently I ran across some things that I felt were totally wasteful. In a town that I visited I happened to notice a birdbath in the backyard of a resident. In this birdbath there was a garden hose which apparently had been running for quite some time. There was a huge water hole in the yard and water was running out of the yard into the road ditch. I have also seen stock tanks running over for very long periods of time. There also have been lawn sprinklers left running in one place for as long as 16 hours when one or two hours is sufficient for a good watering.

Many people (including myself until recently) get a full glass of water and take, maybe, one or two swallows then pour the rest out. Little do they know that if they pour 4 ounces out of an 8 ounce glass along with everyone else in a town of 10,000 people that could equal 312 gallons of water wasted in a day.

In December of 2009 I was visiting a hospital. The person I was visiting and the nurses informed me that they had to run the water for 15 to 20 minutes to receive any warm water at all. There are six floors in this hospital with 24 rooms on each floor. This equals 48 hours of running water just to receive hot water. It seems to me there should be a way to reduce this waste of water such as an on-demand water heater for each floor.

Keep in mind that a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole under average household pressure of 60 PSI over a three month period would result in the waste of 1,181,500 gallons of water. This is roughly a hole the size of the lead in a pencil. A hole $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch under the same pressure and over the same period of time would waste 74,000 gallons of water.

We all need to know and understand why we need to preserve this special commodity. Without it we would not be able to live. We are very fortunate in the United States. There are many countries that do not have the quality of water on tap that we enjoy. Please use it, but use it wisely! Remember that only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking, 2% of the earth's water is frozen and the other 97% is salt water.