

PURVEYOR: A water supplier.

RATE STRUCTURE: Price level variations according to the quantity of water used or time of use.

REGULATION: A demand management program in which consumers are limited by specific uses, plumbing code changes or appliance retrofit. Rationing is the term frequently applied to many programs involving regulations.

RESIDENTIAL USE: Refers to water used for domestic use and lawn watering and other outside water use associated with the home.

RETROFIT: To furnish or replace with water-saving fixtures not available when manufactured.

SCAN: A procedure to thoroughly examine a water system for leaks using listening techniques. The most widely used listening equipment includes the aquaphone, the geophone, and electrosonic instruments.

SEPTIC TANK: A tank in which the solid matter of flowing sewage is disintegrated by bacteria.

SPRAY TAP: This device mixes air with water and propels the mixture, using a water flow of .25 to .5 gallons per minute - a reduction of over 90 percent from conventional showers. The reduced flow will also save energy, although some energy is required to produce the compressed air. This new device still requires testing to determine consumer acceptability.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: Refers to programs to reduce water loss or waste within the supply system without depending on water users.

UNNACCOUNTABLE WATER: The difference between the quantity of water introduced into the system and the quantity delivered to the eventual customer; usually expressed as a percentage of delivered water.

URBAN USE: Refers to water use for urban purposes including residential, commercial industrial, recreational, etc.. The term is applied in the sense that it is a kind of use rather than a place of use. Included delivered water and unaccountable water.

VACUUM FLUSH TOILET: Uses either a low vacuum or an injection of air to assist in removing waste from the bowl. They operate on 1.5 to 2 quarts of water per flush - up to 90 percent less than conventional toilets. Compared to the standard gravity-flow-waste-discharge system, the vacuum system is complicated because it requires energy to activate the necessary air pressure. Vacuum toilets, which can be used with existing sewage-collection systems, have been used in Europe for years.

WATERSHED: A region bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or a body of water.