

Untitled

8-28-06

Robert-

I have heard you remark several times about water conservation techniques and the need to incorporate them into our lifestyles. I wanted to let you know about a system my wife and I are building into the home we are constructing in West Lubbock County.

When we designed the home, we incorporated a gray water recycling system. The waste water from the bathtubs, showers and laundry room (washing machine) are plumbed separately from the rest of the house. They discharge into a separate cistern. The "gray water" is filtered and allowed to settle, then pumped through our sprinkler system. We estimate that this will reduce our well-pumpage by approximately 60,000 gallons per year. I would not characterize the system as being "cheap" but it is certainly within reach of anyone building a new home in the unincorporated area of the County. (I think our system has added about \$2500 to the cost of the home.) There are several systems like this in use around the area.

For what it is worth, we also investigated incorporating rain water harvesting. These systems work great in areas which get rainfall throughout the year. The problem with this conservation method in West Texas is that we get our rainfall in relatively short seasons. This means that we would have to have a very large cistern in order to capture and store a useable quantity of water. We concluded that it would be economically impractical to add this capacity to our system.

The new house is still under construction, and the gray water cistern is being installed this week. If you are interested in seeing how this system works, call me and I will give you a tour.

By the way, I really enjoy your program. I think you have found your calling. Just don't call me a bureaucrat.

Very truly yours,  
John