

## Water Theft Policy

The Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Corporation is pleased to provide you with high quality water at the lowest possible cost. People using water illegally—such as using un-metered water—not only denies your water system income each year but also imposes additional costs on the legitimate paying-customers. Further, illegal connections jeopardize the safety of our water supply's distribution system through possible contamination. The following outlines what we look for and what you should be aware of to assist in identifying and reporting possible water theft.

The following conditions may cause us to be suspicious that water theft is occurring at a property:

- Meter readings that are lower than the history for previous readings;
- Low consumption based on knowledge of average water consumption;
- No change in recorded consumption despite an apparent increase in need (*e.g., the addition of stock animals, significant increase in landscaping, crops, etc.*);
- Multiple dwelling units on a property served by only one meter [*even if an additional connection is made after the meter, this is a violation of Texas Law -- Texas Administrative Code §291.89(a)(4)*]
- Refusing to allow or interfering with field operators/meter readers legitimate access to a property to inspect the Company's meter and service lines or obtain a meter reading.

Water theft by property owners and/or renters is a serious offense and can result in significant fines as well as civil or criminal prosecution. In addition to any penalties, customers caught stealing water will be charged for the water used based on an estimated calculation.

Water theft has a negative effect on all Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Corporation customers. We appreciate your assistance in locating illegal connections.

We also encourage rental property tenants to report any signs of water theft.

If you are aware of water theft taking place in a property, or are suspicious that water theft may be occurring, please contact us at:

**Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Corporation**

**PO Box 40**

**Jarrell, TX 76537**

**Phone: 512-746-2114**

**Fax: 512-746-2374**