

Water Tips Around the House

Did You Know?

About 75% of indoor home water use occurs in our bathrooms, and toilets are the single largest water users. Toilets use over 40% more water than needed!



Toilets

- Repair any toilet tank, bowl or base leaks. You can check the tank leaks by adding food coloring to the water tank and observing whether it spreads to the bowl without flushing. Never flush garbage of any kind down the toilet.

Shower/Remember (Shower Power!)

- Repair leaky faucets and always turn off your taps tightly so they don't drip. Have showers instead of baths and keep them short (5 minutes). Install low-flow shower heads.

In the Bathroom: The Sink

- Even a small drip can waste tons of water. Use an aerator and a water-flow reducer attachment.

In The Kitchen: The Sink

- Don't run the water continuously to thaw, wash hands, or wash veggies; use a partially filled sink instead and use a quick rinse afterwards.

In the Laundry Room

- Wash full loads of clothes or use the shortest cycle. Adjust the water level and use cold or warm water instead of hot. Repair any leaks around the washer taps and hoses.



Report Water Waste!

Your local water agency is your best resource for reporting water waste. Many agencies have water waste email addresses, hotlines and even smartphone apps!

Reference:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>, <http://saveourwater.com>

<http://www.scpr.org>, <http://cawater.usgs.gov>

<http://gov.ca.gov>, <http://www.owrb.ok.gov>

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Native American Environmental Protection Coalition

Drought

What is Water Worth?



Drought Watch

(Increased voluntary conservation)

Drought Alert

(Up to 20% mandatory conservation)

Drought Critical

(Up to 40% mandatory conservation)

Drought Emergency

(More than 40% mandatory conservation)



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QUESTIONS?

- **What is a drought?**

What do you think when you hear the word drought?

Do you think "dry," "hot," "dusty," or "cracked earth," or even "no water"? If so, you're on the right track! When a place is in a drought, it is dry and hot, often dusty; cracks may appear in the soil, and rivers, lakes, and other source of water can go dry. A drought means that a place has less precipitation (rain or snow) than normal over a few months or even longer.



Drought has many causes. It can be caused by not receiving rain or snow over a period of time. Weather that changes in wind patterns that move clouds and moisture through the atmosphere can cause a place to not receive its normal amount of rain or snow over a long period of time.


How does drought affect groundwater?

Groundwater provides drinking water for a large portion of the state's population, supplies business and industries, and is used extensively for irrigation.




What is Water Worth? The Cost of Water

- In the U.S., the average person pays about 25 cents each day for water.
- The average cost for water supplied to a home in the U.S. is about \$2.00 for 1,000 gallons, which equals about 5 gallons for a penny.
- Bottled water can be thousands of times more expensive than tap water.
 - There are almost 800 different brands of bottled water for sale in the United States.

A photograph showing a quarter coin and a penny coin stacked on top of each other. Below them is a collection of various brands of bottled water.

What is Water Worth? Rural/Municipal Water vs. Bottled Water

- \$2 dollars for 1,000 gallons equals...
- 3,200 bottles of water
 - (based on 40 oz. of bottled water purchased for \$2 dollars at a typical convenience store)

A photograph showing a long, neat row of many small, white plastic bottles of water, likely representing the 3,200 bottles mentioned in the text.

- Cost for comparable amount of bottled water = **\$6,400**



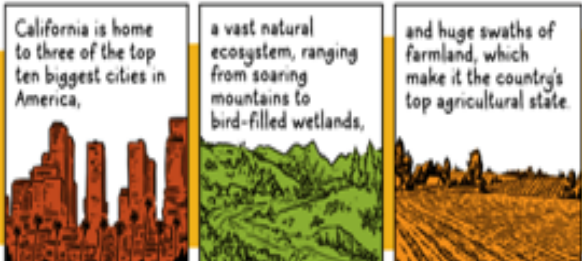
What has the State of California done about the drought?

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for drought conditions. "We can't make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for terrible consequences that California's drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas," said Governor Brown. "I've declared this emergency and I'm calling all Californians to conserve water in every way possible."



California just experienced its driest year on record and there's no relief in sight. Governor Jerry Brown is calling on citizens to conserve and children are no exception. Here are some tips to help parents and teachers explain the problem to kids and how to save those precious drops.

RATIONING THE RAIN

A graphic with the text "RATIONING THE RAIN" in large, colorful letters. To the right of the text is a yellow outline of the state of California.

California is home to three of the top ten biggest cities in America,

a vast natural ecosystem, ranging from soaring mountains to bird-filled wetlands,

and huge swaths of farmland, which make it the country's top agricultural state.

- Meteorological drought– lack of precipitation
- Agricultural drought– lack of soil moisture or
- Hydrologic drought– reduced stream flow or groundwater levels

It is not unusual for a given period of water deficiency to represent a more severe drought of one type than another type. For example, a prolonged dry period during the summer may substantially lower the yield of crops due to shortage of soil moisture in the plant root zone but have little effect on ground water storage replenished the previous spring.

What are the effects of drought?

Water quality degradation, surface and ground water level declines, land subsidence– all are impacts of drought. Understanding the impacts of the drought can help mitigate drought-related issues and prepare for future dry periods.

