



Water Conservation Tips for Droughts

Tips for reducing water consumption during a drought:

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Shower rather than bathing and reduce shower time.
- Avoid allowing water to run while brushing or shaving.
- Only operate appliances like dishwashers and clothes washers when they are fully loaded.
- Don't pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Simply scrape large scraps into the garbage.
- Consider hand-washing dishes with two containers of water: One for washing and one for rinsing.
- Clean fruit and vegetables in a pan rather than running them under water.
- While waiting for a shower to warm up, capture water for other uses. For example, use a bucket to capture and reuse water for watering plants.
- Avoid using running water to thaw meat and frozen food. Take it out of the freezer the night before and allow it to thaw in the fridge or use the microwave.
- Make sure to follow water use guidelines issued by your local community during times of drought.

While reducing water consumption during a drought is essential, it's also a good idea to try and conserve water year-round. Here are some additional ways you can reduce water usage:

- Regularly check pipes and faucets for leaks and repair as soon as possible. Even a small drop from a faucet can add up to thousands of gallons over time!
- Use low volume/efficient appliances.
- Use variable flow toilets, low volume toilets.
- Create a compost pile rather than throwing food waste into a garbage disposal in the sink.
- Consider xeriscaping, or landscaping using native plants that use significantly less water.
- Regularly inspect sprinkler systems for leaks. Ensure they don't operate after rain.
- Consider rainwater collection for outdoor use, like watering lawns and gardens.
- Avoid installing fountains that don't re-circulate water.
- If you have a pool, install water-saving pool filters and cover pools when not in use.