

NJ Drought Watch & Water Savings

Water Supply Status and Actions

NORMAL
Monitoring

Routine monitoring of water supply and meteorological indicators. All conditions normal.

WATCH
Voluntary
Demand-side Measures

Focus placed on voluntary reductions in demand through increased public awareness.

WARNING
Mandatory
Supply-side Measures

DEP Commissioner issues order urging public to voluntarily use water sparingly. DEP may issue orders to purveyors to manage supplies in most affected regions.

EMERGENCY
Mandatory
Demand-side Measures phases I-IV

Governor orders mandatory restrictions on certain uses of water, usually phased in as conditions deteriorate.



On August 9, 2022, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued a statewide Drought Watch. What does this mean? It's the first of three stages in the State's drought advisory system. The Drought Watch announcement is intended to make the public aware that persistent dry and hot conditions this summer are stressing water supplies throughout the state, and to encourage residents and businesses to voluntarily conserve water. Voluntary conservation at the watch stage can help to avoid serious and restrictive drought conditions. If conditions do not improve, declaration of a drought warning or a drought emergency with mandatory water use restrictions may become necessary. Prolonged dry weather conditions affect not only surface waterways (e.g., reservoirs and streams) but also shallow groundwater well supplies which are fed by precipitation that soaks into the soil. More detailed information on current water supply conditions are available on [NJDEP's Drought Status and Conditions](https://dep.nj.gov/drought/) website. Visit dep.nj.gov/drought/ to learn more.



NJDEP recommends "10 Simple Steps" for saving water outdoors.

10 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER

Water flowers and landscaping with water harvested in a rain barrel connected to a downspout. 1	Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water. 6
Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and micro-sprays compared to sprinklers. 2	Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches to promote deeper grass roots which hold water better. 7
Only water when needed, in NJ most landscapes need only 1 inch of water per week. This often comes from dew and rainfall. 3	Use water from dehumidifiers and air conditioners to water your plants. 8
If you have a pool purchase a water saving filter. 4	Use native plants that need less water. 9
Cover your pool when not in use to reduce evaporation rates. 5	Group plants together based on water needs. 10

Summertime, means swimming pools, sprinkler jumping, and barbecues surrounding by manicured landscape. During the summer months, while water supplies are typically declining, water usage is increasing. In fact, water usage from winter to summer increases by approximately 30%. However, we can all do our part to reduce water usage by following these 10 simple tips.

Within the home consider the following:

In the Kitchen

- Run dishwasher only when it's full. Saving 2,920 gallons and \$19 per year.
- Install high-efficiency dishwasher. Saving 1,314 gallons and \$8 per year.
- Use a faucet aerator, low flow faucet. Saving 15,622 gallons and \$100 per year.
- Take care of household leaks. Saving 10% on water bill.

In the Bathroom

- Install a low-flow showerhead. Saving 7,665 gallons and \$50 per year.
- Take 5 minute showers. Saving 76,650 gallons and \$498 per year.
- Install a low-flow toilet. Saving 10,986 gallons and \$70 per year.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth. Saving 11,680 gallons and \$75 per year.
- Fix constantly-running toilets. Saving 73,846 gallons and \$480 per year.

In the Laundry Room

- Upgrade to a high efficiency washer. Saving 14,585 gallons and \$94 per year.
- Run washing machine when full. Saving 10,534 gallons and \$68 per year.

<https://dep.nj.gov/conserves-water/conserves-water-inside-your-home/>

Look for **WaterSense** when replacing these items in your home:

Aerators	Faucets	Showerheads	Toilets	Lawn Sprinkler Controllers

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense>