

D.E.E.P. Thoughts.....

Disaster, Emergency, Evacuation Preparedness

Water Conservation Tips

Avoid outdoor watering during hottest part of day.

Wash only full loads of laundry.

Install water-saving showerheads.

Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin.

Teach children the importance of using water effectively.

When taking a shower (saves water) or bath – while shampooing, slathering and lathering turn off the water & then quickly rinse thoroughly.

Follow the same directions as above for dogs, cats, trucks, bikes and all other toys.

When brushing your teeth turn off the water while brushing.

Drought: Webster's II New College Dictionary defines drought as "a period of dry weather especially a long one that is injurious to crops."

BUREAU OF
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LICENSING

How is Arizona Faring?

Arizona is especially sensitive to the adverse effects of drought. Water is scarce here, even during wetter years, and population growth continues to increase our demand for water. Through proper planning and preparedness, we can reduce the severe impacts.

Fortunately, due to visionary water supply planning efforts over the last 100 years, Phoenix and surrounding municipalities have successfully managed available water supplies to meet growing demands with little if any impact on the economy and quality of life for the region. Abundant (though currently diminishing) storage in major reservoirs on the Colorado, Salt and Verde Rivers and the ability to pump groundwater, has allowed our region to continue to thrive despite the recent drought conditions.

About two-thirds of Phoenix's water serves residential uses, including landscape irrigation. The remaining one-third is used for commercial, industrial and institutional purposes. More than 60 percent of Phoenix's overall water demand is for outdoor water uses (primarily landscape irrigation).

Demand, based on the overall GPCD (gallons per capita per day), and has been reduced by about 21 percent in the last 25 years. This can be attributed to a number of factors, including new homes built with low water use plumbing fixtures and appliances, new landscape restrictions requiring the use of desert adapted plants, increased use of reclaimed water on new golf courses and parks, and water conservation education programs.

Though drought has affected both systems, the Salt/Verde watershed is much more sensitive to drought given the smaller watershed size. This smaller size means that local weather conditions have a greater impact on water yield. On larger regional watersheds, localized weather phenomenon has less impact on the watershed as a whole.

Conor the Camel says,
"Children are the future
keepers of our world
environment.
So follow the tips."



Surviving the Drought



Times of drought make life very hard for living things. This includes wildlife. During periods of water shortages ponds, lakes and bodies of water may dry up. Birds are especially vulnerable during these periods. You can help the birds by putting out bird baths in any container but be sure that you put some stones inside the lid so the birds will have some places to perch while they are drinking.



Plants react to the droughts by slowing down water intake and conserving the water they have. Grass is a good example to explain this. During a drought, you will notice that the grass turns into yellow hard grass. Believe it or not the grass is not dead. Instead, the grass went to sleep so it stops growing and conserves water. Water is crucial to a plant's survival, from the smallest plant to the biggest oak tree in the forest. Water is very important to a plant. They make their food through photosynthesis, a process using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. Without water to assist this process the plants won't grow and will eventually die.



Humans can survive drought too. If everyone in the world helps to conserve water, it won't be so difficult to survive a drought.



Keep in mind that during a drought, officials may recommend water restriction measures that include such procedures as watering lawns and washing cars on odd or even days of the week, at night, or on weekends. The restrictions may limit hours or prohibit use of water, or require use of hand watering instead of using sprinkler systems that use much more water. You should check with your local authorities or water utility for information on water restrictions that may be imposed for your area.

To check Arizona's drought status, go to the Arizona Department of Water Resources [Drought Program](http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/DroughtProgram) website, which updates both short- and long-term status [maps](http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/StatewidePlanning/Drought/DroughtStatus2.htm) reflecting the impact of drought levels throughout the State.

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For additional information regarding water conservation education, see the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the ADWR website.

Another resource for drought information is the [Arizona State Climate Office](#), an unit of the Arizona State University.