

California Drought Information!

- 88% of the State is in a moderate to severe drought. Some have called this the worst drought on record
- 60% of California's developed water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. As of January 8th, the snow in the Sierra Nevadas was only about 20-30% of average (meaning there is only about a quarter of the usual amount of snow in those mountains).
- The Department of Water Resources estimates that it will only be able to deliver 5% of the water requested by public agencies for 2014 (which provides water for more than 25 million Californians and over 1 million acres of farmland).
Drought information obtained from the [Weather Channel](#)



On January 17th, California Governor, Jerry Brown, declared a drought state of emergency; Californians are urged to reduce their water use by 20%.

CONSERVE WATER!

Due to these harsh conditions, it is important that everybody in California do their part to help conserve water, and hopefully reduce the effects of this drought – and it's pretty easy to save 20%. Below are some very simple ways to conserve water:

- The easiest way to conserve water is outdoors; plants don't need as much water in the cooler months even though it is dry outside.
- If you are watering your lawn, only use as much water as you need. Many studies have shown that the average homeowner uses four times the amount of water needed. Visit www.bewaterwise.com to see how much water you could save.
- Fix any leaking faucets, pipes, and sprinkler heads!
- Replace a portion of your lawn with California native and friendly plants – some districts will even pay you to do this (East Bay Municipal Utility District, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Los Angeles County, and North Marin Water District for example).
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.
- Shorten your showers (try to keep them under 5 minutes.); skip baths completely.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Keep drinking water in the fridge, so you don't have to run the tap while it cools.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Soak pots and pans instead of running water over them to scrape clean.
- Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Some water agencies will offer free water use inspections; an expert will come to your house and offer tips on how to save water and lower your water bill!



Check out [Water Use It Wisely](#) for more tips!

Do your part and ensure your household is reducing water use by 20%!