



Drought Preparedness

Reduce the economic and environmental impacts of a drought with this guide to preparing for drought conditions.

Drought Preparation Checklist for Communities

- 1. Review history of drought conditions in the area
- 2. Educate businesses, city leaders, and homeowners about the impact of drought
- 3. Create list of resources and contacts for helpful federal, state, and local programs
- 4. Assess current and projected future water sources (supply) and uses (demand)
- 5. Identify areas, businesses, and groups who would be most affected by lack of water
- 6. Create a drought communication plan to help share information with partners and the public

Water Conservation Tips for Homeowners

- 1. Repair leaky faucets inside and outside the home
- 2. Replace old appliances with new water-saving ones
- 3. Turn off the tap in the bathroom and kitchen during daily use
- 4. Only run the dishwasher and laundry machines when full
- 5. Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators, and low-flow showerheads
- 6. Replace baths with short showers
- 7. Maximize use of natural vegetation and smaller lawn area
- 8. Leave lawns two to three inches high, helping shade the soil and improving moisture retention
- 9. Only water lawn and gardens when necessary and collect rainfall for irrigation
- 10. Apply mulch to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth, and control weeds





Drought Preparedness

Reduce the economic and environmental impacts of a drought with this guide to preparing for drought conditions.

Foundation Protection Tips for Homeowners Experiencing a Drought

- 1. Ensure the home and its foundation is inspected regularly
- 2. Identify cracks in walls, floors, and around windows and doors
- 3. Look for bowed floors and/or walls
- 4. Identify tilted or falling chimneys
- 5. Look for sticking and hard-to-open/close doors and windows
- 6. Contact a professional foundation repair company