



Before a Drought

The State of Rhode Island experiences periods of reduced rainfall, usually during the months of July and August. However, Rhode Island has experienced major droughts during winters in the past.

Rhode Island can experience frequent periods of drought. If you prepare now and practice eco-friendly water saving techniques, then you will more likely be ready for those dry periods.

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- Repair dripping faucets. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have any leaks repaired.
- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- Insulate your water pipes to reduce heat loss and prevent them from breaking.
- Install a water-softening system only when the minerals in the water would damage your pipes.
- Choose appliances that are more energy and water efficient.
- Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Dispose of food waste in the garbage or compost rather than in the kitchen sink, as garbage disposals require a lot of water to operate properly.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- Check your well pump. If the automatic pump turns on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in soil.
- Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- Avoid installing ornamental water features, such as fountains, unless they re-use circulated water.
- Contact your local water provider for additional information and assistance.

Lawn Care:

- Position sprinklers so the majority of water falls on your lawn and not on your street or driveway.
- Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they are operating properly.
- Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.

Pools:

- Install a new water-saving pool filter.
- Cover pools and hot tubs to reduce water evaporation.



During a Drought

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Bathroom:

- ❑ Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- ❑ Avoid taking baths and take short showers instead. Turn on water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- ❑ Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving.

Kitchen:

- ❑ Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the "light wash" feature if available.
- ❑ Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Do not let the tap run while you are waiting for water to cool.
- ❑ Avoid wasting water for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses.
- ❑ Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave oven.

Laundry:

- ❑ Operate automatic clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for size of your load.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- ❑ Refrain from washing your car. If you must wash your car, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Lawn Care:

- ❑ Avoid over-watering your lawn and water only when needed.
- ❑ Position sprinklers so the majority of water falls on your lawn and not on your street or driveway.
- ❑ Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they are operating properly.
- ❑ Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.

- **Always observe state and local restrictions on water use during a drought. If restricted, for example, do not water your lawn, wash your car, or other non-essential uses, to help ensure there is enough water for essential uses.**