

# DROUGHT EMERGENCY

## Synopsis of Restrictions

(from 4 PA Code Chapter 119)

- Contact your public water supplier before you fill your pool!
- Use car washes that recycle water.
- Wash your car with a bucket or a hand-held hose with automatic shutoff, not to exceed a total of 2 minutes spray time.

*Odd street addresses:*

*1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.*

*Even street addresses:*

*2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.*

- Water outdoor gardens and landscaped areas between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. using a hand-held container, a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle, or an irrigation system.
- Watering of lawns is strictly prohibited, except newly seeded lawns or new sod.
- Newly seeded grass area or new sod can be watered between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. with a bucket or hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off.
- Using water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools is prohibited unless to sustain aquatic life.

### If the above guidelines are not followed:

~ Fines for the **first offense** are up to **\$200 or 30 days in jail.**

~ For the **second offense**, the fine is up to **\$500 or 90 days in jail.**

# Household Conservation Tips

## Bathroom:

- Over 3/4 of the water used indoors is used in the bathroom - concentrating conservation efforts here can make a big difference!
- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Repair leaking faucets and toilets.
- Install low-flow aerators and showerheads.
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can - avoid unnecessary flushes.



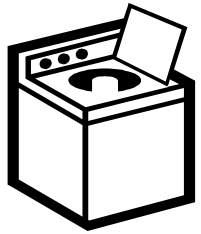
## Kitchen:

- Refrigerate a pitcher of drinking water rather than running the water until it is cold enough to drink.
- Fix leaking faucets.
- Install a faucet aerator.
- Run dishwashers only when full.
- Use a dishpan or fill up the sink for washing and rinsing dishes - don't let the water run.
- Throw food waste into the trash compost pile, not down the sink's garbage disposal.



## Laundry:

- Allow heavily soiled clothes to soak in the washing machine to avoid multiple washes.
- Run washing machines only when full.



## WATER FACTS

- Up to 90% of the water used to water lawns on a sunny day can be lost to the atmosphere through evaporation.
- A front-loading clothes washer uses about 50% less water (20-30 gal.) than a top-loading washer.
- A leaking water fixture can waste 200 gallons each day. Low-flow showerheads use 40% to 50% less water than conventional fixtures.
- Vintage toilets use between 4 and 6 gallons per flush. Low-flow toilets use 20% to 50% less water.
- Dishwashers use between 8 and 12 gallons of water per load.
- Hot water leaks not only waste water, but also waste energy and money.



## Winter Water Conservation Tip:

Winterize outdoor spigots to avoid pipes bursting from freezing.



*Water is a precious resource. It is important for all of us to save water throughout the year, but especially during dry spells.*

### 3 Phases of a Drought (PADEP Drought Definitions)

#### Drought Watch

- Alerts agencies to the onset of conditions that may develop into drought-related problems.
- Encourages increased monitoring, awareness and planning a response if conditions worsen.
- Requests 5% voluntary water use restriction and conservation.

#### Drought Warning

- Prepares for coordinated response to imminent drought conditions and potential water supply shortages.
- Initiates 10-15% voluntary water conservation measures to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed water sources and develop new sources.

#### Drought Emergency

- Initiates mandatory and enforceable minimum of 15% conservation measures.
- Organizes all available resources to respond to actual emergency conditions, avoids depletion of water resources, assures a minimum water supply to protect public health and safety, and supports essential and high priority water uses.

### For More Information

Delaware River Basin Commission  
(609) 883-9500  
[www.state.nj.us/drbc/drought/droughtframeset.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/drought/droughtframeset.htm)

Montgomery County Drought Task Force  
(610) 278-5117

Pennsylvania Drought Hotline  
1-888-457-6653

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Drought Information Center  
[www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought)

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency  
[www.pema.state.pa.us/pema/site](http://www.pema.state.pa.us/pema/site)

United States Geological Survey  
1-888-ASK-USGS  
(1-888-457-6653)

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
[www.drought.noaa.gov](http://www.drought.noaa.gov)

Montgomery County Human Services Center  
Montgomery County Health Department  
1430 Dekalb Street  
P. O. Box 311  
Norristown, PA 19404-0311  
1-610-278-5117  
[www.montcopa.org/health](http://www.montcopa.org/health)

*Developed in cooperation with the Montgomery County Planning Commission*



# Water Conservation



Tips for saving water now, and throughout the year