

NEW JERSEY DROUGHT WATCH

The State of New Jersey is in Drought Watch as persistent dry and hot conditions continue to stress water supplies throughout the state. If conditions do not improve, declaration of a drought warning or a drought emergency with mandatory water use restrictions may become necessary.

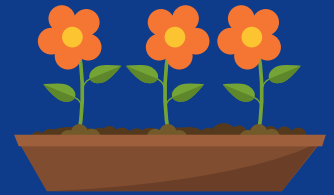
SIMPLE TIPS TO SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER



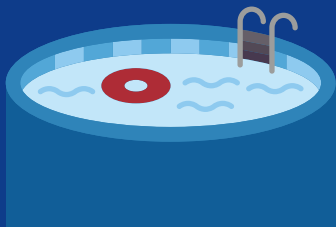
- Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water.



- Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and micro-sprays compared to sprinklers.
- Water flowers and landscaping with water harvested in a rain barrel connected to a downspout.



- Use water from dehumidifiers and air conditioners to water your plants.
- Use native plants that need less water.
- Group plants together based on water needs.



- If you have a pool, purchase a water saving filter.
- Cover your pool when not in use to reduce evaporation rates.



- Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches to promote deeper grass roots which hold more water.



- Only water when needed; in NJ most landscapes need only 1 inch of water per week. This often comes from dew and rainfall.

With the continued dry conditions, there is an increase in fire risk.



[See Back Page For Dry Weather Safety Tips.](#)



DRY WEATHER SAFETY

OUTDOOR COOKING



- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Avoid placing the grill on dry grass or other plant material. A stray spark could easily start a fire.
- Never leave an outdoor charcoal or gas grill unattended. Flames can become uncontrollable and start a large fire.
- Keep grills clean by removing grease or fat buildup.
- Regularly check propane grills for gas leaks. If a leak is found, have a professional service the product before using it again.
- When finished with charcoal grilling, let the coals completely cool and dispose of them in a metal container.

FIREWORKS



- Do not use fireworks on or near dry vegetation or combustible materials.
- Be cautious when lighting fireworks when conditions are windy. The wind could blow a burning spark and set another area on fire.
- Before discarding devices, be sure to douse them thoroughly with water.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry area to prevent an accidental ignition.
- Supervise children closely when using fireworks.
- Never light more than one firework at a time, and never attempt to re-light one that did not ignite completely.
- If a firework device ignites a fire, contact the local fire department or 911 immediately. Do not attempt to extinguish a large fire.

CIGARETTES AND VEHICLES



- Never throw a lit cigarette out the window of a vehicle. It could land on dry grass or be blown into dry vegetation and start a fire.
- Never walk away and leave a cigarette burning. Always use an ash tray.
- Never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves.



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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.