

Conserving Water During Drought

The Permian Basin UWCD is asking residents and businesses to conserve water.

Martin and Howard counties are listed in a “extreme” drought by the state’s U.S. Drought monitor, which is encouraging the elimination of nonessential uses of water.

“The troubling thing about this drought is it takes a long time to clear up and go back to normal, and that’s a concern,” said Jonathan Blaes, science operations officer for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh. “As we head into the warmer months of summer, we’re already running a deficit, which means we’re pretty much at the mercy of scattered storm showers now.”

While cities like Plano and Frisco have both asked residents and business to use water wisely, it's a message that should be spread across the entire state of Texas. Luckily, there are a number of things that you can do in order to easily conserve water during a drought.

Be Aware of How Much Water You're Using. Taking a bath is one of the best ways to conserve water during a drought. The main reason is because you are able to monitor the exact amount of water that you are using, whereas you may not be sure how much you are using during a shower.

Do Not Use Water When it is Not Needed

Although you will need to rinse out your mouth and your toothbrush when you are done brushing your teeth, there is no need for you to leave the water running while you are brushing.

Wash Things Only When Necessary to do so

If you are planning on washing dishes or clothes, the most important thing that you should keep in mind is that you should only do so when it is necessary. You should make sure that you do both of these things when you have a full load to wash. Otherwise, you will be running a load in the washer or dishwasher more than once - and ultimately, using more water.

Save Water Whenever Possible

There are a number of different times when you may find that you can save your water. One of the best times to save water is when you have cooked with it, such as when you have made pasta. There are many other things that you can do with this water. You can either opt to cook with it again, use it to water your plants, or use it to wash your hands - if you have not used any oils or salts in the water when cooking to begin with, of course. Thinking about when you can save water, as well as when you can reuse water, is a very good way to conserve it.

For more ways to conserve water in and around your home, visit the Permian Basin UWCD website at www.pbuwcd.com