

Loss of water can be caused by a number of problems. For homes and businesses on water wells, a water outage may be caused by the loss of power. In this case, your home may be completely without power.

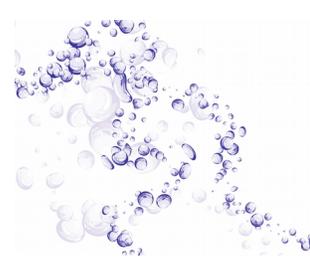
A well may also stop functioning due to a mechanical malfunction in the pump itself, or a malfunction in the electrical connection to the well pump. The rest of the home may still have fully functioning electrical power.

For homes and businesses on community water supplies, loss of community water may be due to regularly scheduled maintenance of the water infrastructure, or due to a broken water main in the area.

In preparation for or during a water outage, there are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

Before the Outage

1. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
2. Be a leak detective! Check all hoses, connectors, and faucets regularly for leaks.
3. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses.
4. See a leak you can't fix? Tell a parent, teacher, employer, or property manager, or call a handyman. One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.
5. Install water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
6. Look for WaterSense® labeled toilets, sink faucets, urinals and showerheads.
7. Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
8. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the shower head with a WaterSense® labeled model.
9. Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
10. Upgrade older toilets with water-saving WaterSense® labeled models. If your toilet was installed before 1992, purchasing a WaterSense® labeled toilet can reduce the amount of water used for each flush.
11. If your toilet flapper doesn't close properly after flushing, replace it.
12. Consider buying a dual-flush toilet. It has two flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste and a full-flush for solid waste.
13. Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
14. Reuse leftover water from cooked or steamed foods to start a nutritious soup, it's one more way to get eight glasses of water a day.
15. If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.



16. Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.
17. When shopping for a new dishwasher, use the Consortium for Energy Efficiency website to compare water use between models.
18. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
19. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
20. When shopping for a new washing machine, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some can save up to 20 gallons of water per load.
21. Have a plumber re-route your gray water to trees and plants rather than the sewer line. Check with your city and county for codes.
22. When buying a washer, check the Consortium for Energy Efficiency website to compare water use between models.
23. While you wait for hot water, collect the running water and use it to water plants.
24. Teach children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.

During the outage:

1. When showering, take a very short shower.
 - Turn the water on to wet down, then turn the water off.
 - Lather up, then turn the water on to rinse off.
2. When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
3. If you have to take a bath, use a minimum amount of water. Plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
4. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute. That's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
5. Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor.
6. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
7. Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Now, Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.
8. If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
9. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
10. Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
11. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons every time.
12. Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
13. Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.
14. Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.
15. Select the proper pan size for cooking. Large pans may require more cooking water than necessary.
16. Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.