

Know When to Ask for Help

If your well is struggling to keep up, don't wait until you're completely out of water.

Contact a well professional if you notice:

- Sudden drops in water pressure
- Air sputtering from faucets
- Cloudy, muddy, or sandy water
- Frequent pump cycling
- Longer recovery times after heavy water use
- Loss of water service

Contact OWRD if your well goes dry or experiences a significant reduction in production.

Dry well reports help track drought impacts and may help identify available assistance programs.

Contact JSWCD for drought preparedness resources, conservation planning, and WaterWise guidance before drought impacts your well.

About JSWCD

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District provide no-cost land consultations and guidance to help develop resilient project and connect residents, landowners, and producers to trusted local and state resources.

Find the Right Water Wise Guide Need a different drought resource?

Scan Me to check out the WaterWise Guides to find tips and resources that fit your home, land, livestock, or business needs.

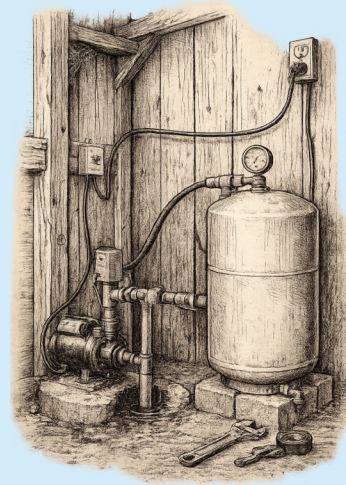


jswcd.org/waterwise-drought-guides



Stay Informed.

Get seasonally relevant, local updates about upcoming events, funding opportunities, programs, and resources.



Drought Preparedness



WaterWise
Serving Jackson County, Oregon
WHERE EVERY DROP MATTERS.



for Rural Homes & Wells

Dry summers can put extra pressure on wells, pumps, storage tanks, and household water use. A little preparation can help you spot problems early, reduce demand, and know where to turn if your water supply changes.

Before Drought

Know Your Water System Before It's Stressed

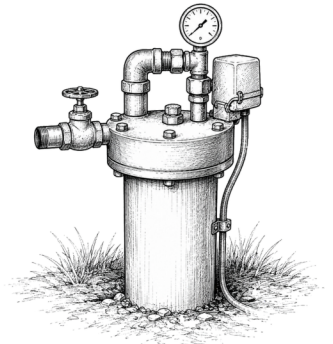
Use this guide to understand your water system, spot changes early, reduce unnecessary water use, and know what to do if your well slows, sputters, or runs dry.

Know What's Normal and What to Watch For

Pay attention to how your water system usually works so changes are easier to notice during hot, dry weather.

- Changes in water pressure or flow
- Changes in taste, odor, or color
- Air sputtering from faucets
- Cloudy, sandy, muddy, or discolored water
- Pump running more often than usual
- Longer recovery time after heavy use
- Needing to reset equipment more often

Keep basic well, pump, storage tank, and water treatment records in one place.



Schedule a Yearly Well-System Checkup

Before drought season, consider having a licensed well or pump professional check your system. A regular checkup can help identify small problems before high summer demand turns them into bigger issues. Find out who services your well, pump, pressure tank, and treatment system before there is an emergency. Keep their contact information with your well records.

Ask about:

- Well and pump performance
- Pressure tank condition
- Leaks in pipes, valves, outdoor faucets, hydrants, and hose bibs
- Water filters or treatment equipment that may need cleaning or replacement
- Storage tank levels, floats, and controls
- Whether irrigation or livestock watering is overloading the household system

During Drought: Help Your Well Keep Up

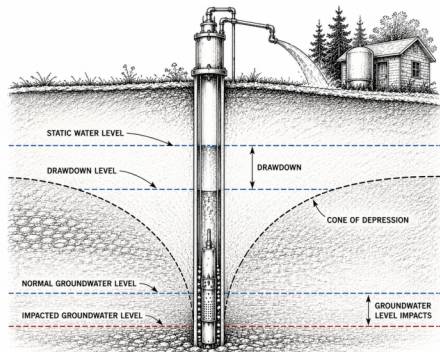
Prioritize Your Water Use Focus available water where it matters most.

Your well may not produce water as quickly as it normally does. Prioritizing essential uses can help reduce stress on your well system and available groundwater and stretch limited supplies.

Consider:

- Prioritizing drinking water, cooking, sanitizing, and livestock needs
- Watering food gardens, young trees, and high-value plants before lawns or ornamental landscaping
- Watering early in the morning or later in the evening to reduce evaporation
- Using mulch around gardens and landscape plants to help retain soil moisture
- Postponing non-essential water uses such as pressure washing, vehicle washing, or hosing down driveways and patios
- Sweeping barns, sidewalks, and work areas instead of washing them down with a hose

Even small changes can help reduce demand on your well and leave more water available for essential household and livestock needs.



What is drawdown?

Drawdown is the drop in water level inside a well when water is being pumped. During drought, a well may take longer to recover after heavy use. Spacing out water-heavy tasks can help reduce stress on your well, pump, and pressure system.

Plan for Livestock Water Needs

Keep animals watered while reducing waste.



- Check troughs, floats, valves, hoses, and hydrants for leaks
- Clean troughs regularly so water stays usable longer
- Place troughs where animals can access water without damaging muddy or wet areas
- Avoid overflowing troughs or leaving hoses running unattended
- Sweep barns and animal areas instead of washing them down
- Spread livestock watering out from other heavy household water uses when possible
- Watch for changes in flow or recovery after filling troughs

If you rely on a well for livestock, plan ahead before water levels drop further.

Spread Out Heavy Water Use

Give your well time to recover

If your well or pump is stressed, doing several water-heavy tasks back-to-back can make problems worse.

Try to avoid stacking:

- Showers
- Laundry
- Dishwashing
- Irrigation
- Livestock watering
- Large cleaning projects

Instead:

- Spread laundry loads across the week.
- Avoid running multiple water-using appliances at the same time.
- Water outside only when necessary.
- Watch whether pressure drops after heavy use.
- Consider whether outdoor uses should be reduced first.

Track Changes and Report Dry Wells

Keep notes before the situation becomes urgent

If your water supply changes, good notes can help you explain what is happening and find the right support.

Track:

- Date and time of changes
- Water pressure or flow problems
- Sputtering, sediment, odor, or color changes
- Pump problems or repairs
- Well recovery after heavy use
- Water hauling or bottled water costs, if needed
- Photos or notes from service providers

Report dry wells

OWRD specifically asks Oregonians to report dry wells and provides a dry well reporting/help pathway for well owners and domestic water users.

*When a well is pumped faster than **groundwater** can move back into it, water levels can drop. During drought, that recovery can be slower. Spreading out water use can help a low-producing or drought-stressed well recover between demands.*

Stormwater Management & Rainwater Storage Rebate Program

Reimbursement Program for Jackson County Residents who want to filter, deter, drain or store stormwater to expand their water resources.

You can get financial help and expert advice to set up these features:

