

# WATER CONSERVATION AND USAGE IN IDYLLWILD

It is essential that Idyllwild residents are aware of the urgent need to save water. About 50 years ago there was the most significant drought that was the biggest one Idyllwild has ever had. Did you know that the Idyllwild Water District pumped out 3,000,000 gallons of water in a year? People waste too much water.

For starters, the drought that was about 50 years ago was so big that people in Idyllwild are still experiencing side effects to this day. This drought affected all of California. It happened in 1976. Farmers said that it was the most severe drought in history. Scientists don't know for sure but they don't think that it was just a heatwave. They think that it was even more significant. The group thought that it was a change in the jet stream that dictates our weather. Those scientists think that it is one of the many parts of human influence on our environment.

Next, people spend about \$80 a month on water, which means that people that live in Idyllwild spend about \$960 a year. You could save a lot of money if all that money didn't go to water. There are many ways to save water and most of them are very simple. As simple as turning off the water when you are brushing your teeth (when people don't turn off the water they waste about 4 gallons of water each time they brush their teeth). That means that you waste about 28 gallons a week on not turning off the water when brushing your teeth.

Then, people take too long to take a shower. The average middle schooler takes about a 5 to 10 minute shower which means that they use about 12.5 gallons per shower. That means that you use 87.5 gallons a week if you take a shower every day. That is way too much water! When you're taking a shower it should only be about a 3-5 minute shower that's only 21-35 gallons. Or you could take a 12 minute shower about 2-3 times a week. That's only 24-36 gallons of water. This might seem like a lot but compared to about 88 gallons it is nothing.

Another way is to check if you have a leak. If you have a leak even for just one day it can waste about 90 gallons of water. However, most people don't realize that they have a leak for about a month or even longer. If you live in Idyllwild most people live half the time so if you have a leak that means that you would have a leak for a very long time. That would waste a lot of water! If you have a leak it could also evenly make mold which could affect your drinking water. Even a small

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leak such as a leaky faucet can waste thousands of gallons over time. If you wait long enough it can also cost a lot of money.

These are just a few of the ways that people waste so much water and why we are in such a big drought. To get out of the drought, start doing these things and all of Idyllwild can live in a happier place including the wildlife.