

**DROUGHT
UPDATE
JULY
2016**

**WHAT HAVE WE
SAVED SO FAR?**

**24.64%
MAY 2016**



**How can your water saving
efforts help JBWD's water
saving efforts?**

Pictured: JBWD's Recharge Pond

The more water you save, impacts the amount of water we, as a community, have to purchase to replenish our aquifer which is *still* in overdraft! One couple has made a difference, and you can, too. Learn how you can start to *Shed a Tier* on the reverse side, just like them! *Joshua Tree...It's the water!*

REMEMBER: IT TAKES TONS OF WATER TO PUT OUT A BRUSH FIRE!

Proactive efforts to prevent brush fires can save our precious water:

1. Create a defensible space around your home and property dwellings—remove fire-fueling brush.
2. Be responsible with any open flames, including BBQs. Be sure to absolutely extinguish the fires!

Extreme Heat Water Saving Tips for the Summer Months

1. Turn your evaporative (swamp) coolers off if you are not in the room. Swamp coolers use anywhere from 6-12 gallons of water PER HOUR! Consider delaying turning on your swamp cooler one hour later than usual, and turning it off one hour earlier. The gallons can really add up!
2. Try directing any children's "water play" near thirsty plants, which will benefit from the water splashing and any unintended run-off. Limit the water play by using a timer.
3. Make sure hoses are equipped with water shut-off nozzles.
4. Any landscape watering should be done early in the day (before 9AM) or after 6PM.
5. Check your water meter routinely for signs of "sneaky" leaks.

REMINDER: The District Office will be closed Monday, July 4th, for Independence Day.

EVERY DROP COUNTS...

Your water saving efforts DO make a difference!

Joshua Tree residents know the value of clean, safe affordable water, and many have found ingenious ways to repurpose water in their efforts to conserve every drop. Octogenarians Nick and Margie Thomas are no exception. Together, for the last 20 years, they have transformed their entire home into one large water-saving experience, along with water heater and laundry water recycling.

Going away on vacation? Or, maybe you want a sure way to water your indoor plants that guarantees they'll get just the right amount of water without extra effort or waste? This is a great use of recaptured rain water. Here's one of Margie's tricks:



Using inexpensive or recycled plastic ware, plant a cotton wick string (string) that feeds from the bottom drain hole inside the potted plant soil to a tiny hole in a lid of a sealed container with water (#1). A larger hole in the lid gives access to add water when it is in need of a refill (#2). Never overwater again (#3)!



55 gallon drums catch rain from the roof. A simple submersible pump is then used to distribute the water to their landscape.

Rain harvesting in the desert may seem a stretch with our limited rain fall, but when it does rain, it often comes in buckets! Nick and Margie feed 55 gallon drums and larger from rain that runs off their rooftop. Living in Joshua Tree, they had 3,000 gallons from one past winter season, and 800 gallons just from one storm alone. Fresh tap water is only used for drinking, bathing, cooking and cleaning. **Together, they use one unit of water a month!**



GM Sauer tours the Thomas' home and all their water harvesting efforts, both indoors and out!