Ridgewood Water Weekly

December 5, 2025

Statewide Drought Warning in Effect

Despite recent rains, the extended period of below average rainfall has had significant impacts on water supply, leaving New Jersey in a Statewide Drought Warning. Residents are asked to follow water conservation practices, and to use water wisely.

Winter Water Conservation Tips

- Check for leaks around your home. A dripping faucet can waste several thousand gallons of water a year. And a leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water a day.
- Consider installing low-flow shower heads and faucets.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two, and turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of time it takes for the water to “run hot.”
- Run your dishwasher only when it’s full, and use the garbage disposal sparingly.
- Use rain barrels to collect rainwater from your gutter system for future use in your garden or yard.



Experts Urge Smarter Salt Use

With winter weather closing in, the annual push to keep roads, parking lots, sidewalks and driveways free from ice has begun. While salt remains an essential tool for safety, experts are urging municipalities, contractors and property owners to take a more measured approach this season - one that balances public safety with the long-term protection of local drinking water sources.

1. Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you’ll need.
2. Salt doesn’t melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees F. So use sand for traction when it’s too cold, or choose a different deicer such as calcium chloride.
3. Use salt only when it’s critical, and apply sparingly. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Once pavement has a light, even coating, additional salt offers little extra benefit and is more likely to wash into waterways.
4. Only apply salt where absolutely necessary, keeping it away from storm drains and waterways.
5. Once the snow and ice have melted, leftover salt should be swept up, which prevents it from being washed into storm drains during the next thaw or rainfall.

Ridgewood Water *Serving Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff*