



DID YOU KNOW? OUR PLANET IS COVERED IN WATER, BUT ONLY A VERY SMALL AMOUNT CAN ACTUALLY BE USED.

- 97.5% of Earth's water is **saltwater**, which is not safe for us to use.
- 2.5% of Earth's water is **freshwater**, which is the kind of water we use, but most of it is frozen in glaciers and ice caps, so the only freshwater we can use in our area is **groundwater** or **surface water**.

GROUNDWATER

This comes from an aquifer, which stores our freshwater deep under the ground. It can take decades or even hundreds of years for rainfall to make its way underground to refill the aquifer. If we use too much before nature can refill it, it can run out or cause subsidence in our area.



SURFACE WATER

This comes from rainfall that collects in nearby lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. Treatment plants clean this water and send it through pipes for us to use. If we use too much before nature can refill it, or if there is a drought, our surface water supply can get really low or even run out.

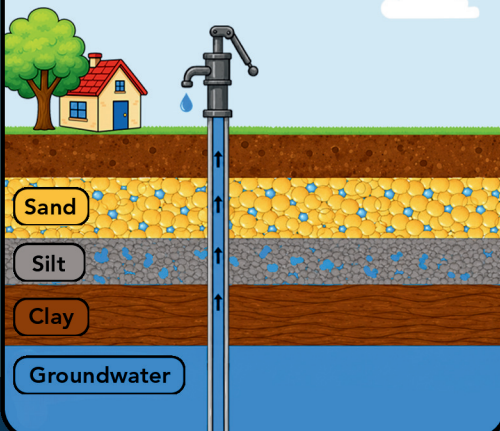


SUBSIDENCE [how to say it: sub-sigh-dense]

In our area, we use groundwater from the **Gulf Coast Aquifer**. When we take too much water from it, before nature can refill it, the land slowly sinks. This is called **subsidence**, and it can cause big problems:

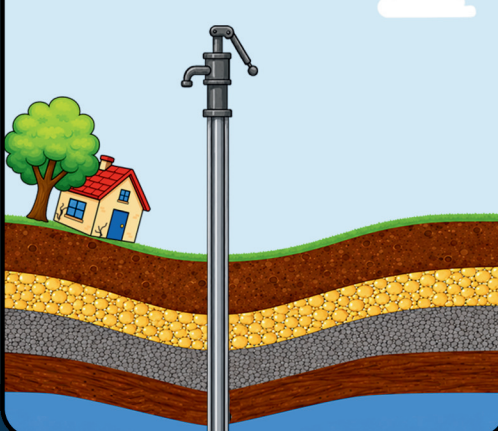
BEFORE

Our aquifer has layers of sand, silt, clay, and groundwater that hold up our land. Wells are drilled deep down that pump groundwater.



AFTER

When too much water is removed, these layers squish together making it difficult to hold up the land and over time it slowly sinks.



- **It Is Permanent:** once the ground sinks, it cannot go back up.
- **It Causes Damage:** to homes, buildings, roads, bridges, pipelines, and more.
- **It Affects Nature:** when the ground moves, it can change how water flows and worsen flooding or lead to flooding in places that didn't flood before.



SCAN TO
WATCH A
VIDEO!

LEARNING HOW LIMITED FRESHWATER IS AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE TOO MUCH OF IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHY SAVING WATER MATTERS!

Turn the page to learn how you can save water.

Turn Page





Let's work together to be

SMARTER ABOUT WATER



Save
Water!



W

Wash Full Loads Only

Wait until the dishwasher and washing machine have full loads before running them.



A

Always Turn Off Running Water

Turn off the faucet when you are not actively using it, like while brushing your teeth.



T

Take Shorter Showers

Challenge yourself to get squeaky clean in less than 5 minutes!



E

Eyes Out For Leaks

Tell an adult if you find leaky toilets and faucets.



R

Remember to Reuse

Don't pour leftover drinking water down the sink, reuse it for your pets or plants!



I CAN SAVE WATER BY...





SCAN TO LEARN
HOW TO FIND
AND FIX LEAKS!



CAN YOU FIND THE WATER WORDS?

H E E D C H Q U C E K E V R E S N O C H
E S A C A E R A S A L E A A R R E T O C
H A C S E E E R W U A I R E F I U Q A E
T V F U E V S F H E S S E E T U U N S F
S E N B R H H S K A A E W W F A V O C E
W R V S E R O E R R E O R D L E A K W S
N W R I E A W E S V F L O W T S O R U E
T V K D E Q E E E A R T H U U R E F E I
C I I E V H R E R W K L F E O E N I R S
A L T N R I N F E E L R N A E D R H A V
B S T C R S S O A S T C A R C U B W S E
U E E E N C R S K R W D K R O C E U H A
R E R K N C R V E S R V S R R E T A W I
R E Q E T N W T W E S E E R S R U S C R
E E O O A C K I S N R I W E E F E E T V

WORD LIST

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|----------|------------|
| AQUIFER | REDUCE |
| CONSERVE | SAVE |
| EARTH | SHOWER |
| FLOW | SUBSIDENCE |
| LEAK | WATER |



SCAN FOR MORE WATER
INFO, IDEAS, AND
RESOURCES!



Find more water-saving tips at **SMARTERABOUTWATER.ORG**

