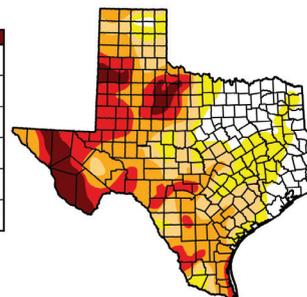




## The Drought Monitor

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.80	82.20	65.93	48.16	23.57	7.38
Last Week (05/01/2012 map)	17.09	82.91	66.59	49.70	24.72	8.70
3 Months Ago (02/07/2012 map)	4.93	95.07	90.05	77.46	54.96	23.12
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.36
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (05/03/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	98.86	93.99	73.73	25.96



**Intensity:**  
■ D0 Abnormally Dry    ■ D3 Drought - Extreme  
■ D1 Drought - Moderate    ■ D4 Drought - Exceptional  
■ D2 Drought - Severe

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary.

Visit [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska



## NEW! Water Conservation Checklist

Here's a couple items on our new checklist. Visit [WaterWiseAustin.org](http://WaterWiseAustin.org) to view the full list.

- Check your toilet for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If it appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak that needs repair.
- Replace older toilets with WaterSense® labeled high-efficiency models that use only 1.28 gallons per flush or consider installing a dual flush model that can use even less.
- Take shorter showers—try for less than 5 minutes.

## Be a Block Leader!

Block Leaders are a vital link between Austin Water's conservation efforts and your community. By sharing information on water and water conservation programs and rebates, you help Austin conserve a valued resource: clean, reliable water.

Each quarter, Blockleaders receive a newsletter and some door hangers to share with those in their neighborhood. The newsletter will outline some of our programs as well as offer tips on ways to conserve water.



The Block Leader Program is the latest component of our ongoing 3C Challenge. The 3C Challenge is a call to action for everyone in Austin to commit to reducing his or her water use by just 10%.

Email [AWUWaterBlockLeader@austintexas.gov](mailto:AWUWaterBlockLeader@austintexas.gov) for more information or visit [www.austintexas.gov/department/be-block-leader](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/be-block-leader).

The 3Cs are an easy and fun way to get started adopting a water-wise lifestyle. Visit our web site to find out more!

*Saving water is easier than you think!*



*Water Conservation web site*

## What's up with the drought?

The most common question we get these days at Austin Water is: **Are we still in a drought?**

The answer is yes.

Even though recent rains have lessened the effects of the drought and added more water to the lakes, the combined levels of Lakes Buchanan and Travis are still less than half full.

Wasting water is prohibited year-round in Austin. To ensure you do not waste water, be mindful of leaking faucets, pipes, and irrigation systems operating with misdirected or broken sprinkler heads. Find out more about available rebates and programs to help save water and get information about detecting water-wasting leaks.



## Austin Water Kicks Off Renewing Austin A 5-year Program to Replace Aging Water Lines

Austin Water recently launched “Renewing Austin” a five-year program to upgrade aging water lines and to keep pace with the infrastructure demands of a growing city.

Renewing Austin will invest \$125 million and targets the areas throughout the city with the greatest need. The Utility regularly conducts testing of water lines with special acoustic equipment that “listens” for leaks as part of its operations and maintenance program. The Utility also tracks breaks and leaks in a database that is then reviewed in order to choose which water lines to include in the new construction projects.

“Austin Water is ahead of most cities in the nation in addressing the need to maintain a reliable water distribution infrastructure, and



*The last City project similar to Renewing Austin was the Austin Clean Water Program. Both pictures above show work in progress from that project.*

this particular project has been in the planning process since early 2009,” said Mayor Leffingwell. “We are making sure that Austin is ready for the future.”

This five-year program will be the first part of a sustained, long-term approach to ensuring the reliability of Austin’s water distribution system. Austin Water will partner with the Public Works Department whose project management staff will supervise construction. Austin Water will also coordinate with Public Works to replace water lines when streets are under construction for maintenance and other utility work.

“With this systematic approach to replacing old water lines, we are making the commitment to



be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to the maintenance and reliability of Austin’s water distribution system,” said Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros.

Cities across the nation are facing the demands of upgrading aging water lines. According to a recent report by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), more than \$1 trillion dollars needs to be spent between now and 2035 to replace the nation’s aging water distribution system.

Last summer, Austin Water experienced a record number of water leaks because of extreme drought conditions. By implementing Renewing Austin, the Utility is leading the way in water conservation and reliability of water services.



[Austin Water web site](#)

*For more information visit [www.austintexas.gov/water](http://www.austintexas.gov/water). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for current updates.*