

Water Worries

Rebecca talks about drought in Australia.



Todd: So, hey, Rebecca, speaking of environmental stuff, I was reading about a drought in Australia. You guys have a serious drought problem with water?

Rebecca: Yeah, we do. We've had a drought for some time now and it seems to be getting worse and worse each year. At the moment, it depends on the area that you're in, but some areas are quite hard hit. We actually have restrictions on water now so you can't wash your car unless it's with a bucket of water. You can't water your garden at all so my mom loves gardening so to keep her garden, dad actually has fitted a special tube into the washing machine which filters the water out into a bucket outside and she can use that grey water to water all her plants and that way she can keep her garden all nice.



Todd: That's fantastic. You call it grey water?

Rebecca: Mm. We call it grey water.

Todd: Is it only water from the washing machine?

Rebecca: Yeah, it is. We haven't done anything else

with the shower water or anything, yet, and I think with the soaps that we use, they're more... not as hard on the plants, so they're actually growing really well.

Todd: Oh, really. Actually, the garden is doing better with the grey water than normal water?

Rebecca: Yeah. Especially grass. Yeah, I don't know, maybe something in the water that they really love.

Todd: Right. All those dirt nutrients from the clothes.

Rebecca: From the clothes, yes.

Todd: So, has the government done anything like to raise water prices or limit how much water you can use per month or anything like that?

Rebecca: There's a certain limit on water and then after that limit's reached, you actually pay quite a fair bit for water. Bottles of water have gone up to about 3 to 4 dollars for just a hundred-fifty mil-bottles, so it's quite expensive. Yeah, so water prices are quite high now.

Todd: So, basically, everybody in Australia just

has to hope that in the future there'll be more rain?

Rebecca: Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. I think the problem is that with the rains, it needs to rain into the basins where we catch the water, so if it doesn't rain into them, then the water's just useless to us when it rains. It just runs off because the ground's so dry.

Todd: Right, you just have the run-off.



Rebecca: Yeah.

Todd: So, have you had other things like flooding or anything like that because of the drought?

Rebecca: In certain areas when there's been big rainfalls, there has been a lot of flooding because the ground just doesn't soak it up. It's that dry, but other areas have got water so because Australia is so vast, so wide as well, yeah, there's different areas that are hit differently.

Todd: Ah, that's terrible. Well, I hope it gets better.

Rebecca: Yeah, so do I.

A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) What is not allowed due to the drought? | 3) What is a result of the drought? |
| a) Washing a car | a) Water bills are higher. |
| b) Washing machines | b) Bottled water is banned. |
| c) Watering gardens | c) There is a water police. |
| 2) Where does she get grey water? | 4) What is another result of the drought? |
| a) The washing machine | a) Water basins are low. |
| b) The shower | b) They need more run-off. |
| c) Either | c) All of Australia is suffering. |

B) Phrase Match: Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1) mil | _____ | doesn't go in the ground |
| 2) the run-off | _____ | absorb the water |
| 3) runs off | _____ | big |
| 4) soak it up | _____ | the extra water |
| 5) vast | _____ | 1000 |

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) _____
water | save | What | to | do | you | do | ?

2) _____
you | Do | floods | have | as | well | ?

3) _____
wash | Is | OK | to | it | your | with water | car | ?

4) _____
and how | water | used | grey | What | is it | is | ?

***How would
Rebecca respond
to the questions?***

Bits and Pieces

ello.org

Todd: So, hey, Rebecca, speaking of environmental stuff, I was reading about a drought in Australia. You guys have a serious drought problem with water?

Rebecca: Yeah, we do. We've had a drought for _____ and it seems to be getting worse and worse each year. At the moment, it depends on the area that you're in, but some areas are quite hard hit. We actually have restrictions on water now so you can't wash your car unless it's with a bucket of water. You can't _____ at all so my mom loves gardening so to keep her garden, dad actually has fitted a special tube into the washing machine which filters the water out into a bucket outside and she can use that grey water to water all her plants and that way she can keep her garden all nice.



Todd: That's fantastic. You call it grey water?

Rebecca: Mm. We call it grey water.

Todd: Is it only water from the washing machine?

Rebecca: Yeah, it is. We _____ anything else with the shower water or anything, yet, and I think with the soaps that we use, they're more... not as hard on the plants, so they're actually growing really well.

Todd: Oh, really. Actually, the garden is doing better with the grey water than normal water?

Rebecca: Yeah. Especially grass. Yeah, I don't know, maybe something in the water that they really love.

Todd: Right. All those _____ from the clothes.

Rebecca: From the clothes, yes.

Todd: So, has the government done anything like _____ prices or limit how much water you can use per month or anything like that?

Rebecca: There's a certain limit on water and then _____ reached, you actually pay quite a fair bit for water. Bottles of water have gone up to about 3 to 4 dollars for just a hundred-fifty mil-bottles, so it's quite expensive. Yeah, so water prices are quite high now.

Todd: So, basically, everybody in Australia just has to hope that in the future there'll be more rain?

Rebecca: Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. I think the problem is that with the rains, it needs to rain into the basins where we catch the water, so if it doesn't rain into them, then

the water's just useless to us when it rains. It just _____ because the ground's so dry.

Todd: Right, you just have the run-off.

Rebecca: Yeah.

Todd: So, have you had other things like flooding or anything like that because of the drought?

Rebecca: In certain areas when there's been big rainfalls, there has been a lot of flooding because the ground just doesn't soak it up. It's that dry, but other areas have got water so because Australia _____, so wide as well, yeah, there's different areas that are hit differently.

Todd: Ah, that's terrible. Well, I hope it gets better.

Rebecca: Yeah, so do I.

A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) What it is not allowed due to the drought? | 3) What is a result of the drought? |
| <p>a) Washing a car
 b) Washing machines
 c) Watering gardens</p> | <p>a) Water bills are higher.
 b) Bottled water is banned.
 c) There is a water police.</p> |
| 2) Where does she get grey water? | 4) What is another result of the drought? |
| <p>a) The washing machine
 b) The shower
 c) Either</p> | <p>a) Water basins are low.
 b) They need more run-off.
 c) All of Australia is suffering.</p> |

B) Phrase Match: Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1) mil | 3 | doesn't go in the ground |
| 2) the run-off | 4 | absorb the water |
| 3) runs off | 5 | big |
| 4) soak it up | 2 | the extra water |
| 5) vast | 1 | 1000 |

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) **What do you do to save water?**

water | save | What | to | do | you | do | ?

2) **Do you have floods as well?**

you | Do | floods | have | as | well | ?

3) **Is it OK to wash your car with water?**

wash | Is | OK | to | it | your | with water | car | ?

4) **What is grey water and how is it used?**

and how | water | used | grey | What | is it | is | ?

**How would
Rebecca respond
to the questions?**

Bits and Pieces

ello.org

Todd: So, hey, Rebecca, speaking of environmental stuff, I was reading about a drought in Australia. You guys have a serious drought problem with water?

Rebecca: Yeah, we do. We've had a drought for **some time now** and it seems to be getting worse and worse each year. At the moment, it depends on the area that you're in, but some areas are quite hard hit. We actually have restrictions on water now so you can't wash your car unless it's with a bucket of water. You can't **water your garden** at all so my mom loves gardening so to keep her garden, dad actually has fitted a special tube into the washing machine which filters the water out into a bucket outside and she can use that grey water to water all her plants and that way she can keep her garden all nice.

Gap Fill
is so vast
to raise water
runs off
water your garden
haven't done
after that limit's
some time now
dirt nutrients

Todd: That's fantastic. You call it grey water?

Rebecca: Mm. We call it grey water.

Todd: Is it only water from the washing machine?

Rebecca: Yeah, it is. We **haven't done** anything else with the shower water or anything, yet, and I think with the soaps that we use, they're more... not as hard on the plants, so they're actually growing really well.

Todd: Oh, really. Actually, the garden is doing better with the grey water than normal water?

Rebecca: Yeah. Especially grass. Yeah, I don't know, maybe something in the water that they really love.

Todd: Right. All those **dirt nutrients** from the clothes.

Rebecca: From the clothes, yes.

Todd: So, has the government done anything like **to raise water** prices or limit how much water you can use per month or anything like that?

Rebecca: There's a certain limit on water and then **after that limit's** reached, you actually pay quite a fair bit for water. Bottles of water have gone up to about 3 to 4 dollars for just a hundred-fifty mil-bottles, so it's quite expensive. Yeah, so water prices are quite high now.

Todd: So, basically, everybody in Australia just has to hope that in the future there'll be more rain?

Rebecca: Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. I think the problem is that with the rains, it needs to rain into the basins where we catch the water, so if it doesn't rain into them, then

the water's just useless to us when it rains. It just **runs off** because the ground's so dry.

Todd: Right, you just have the run-off.

Rebecca: Yeah.

Todd: So, have you had other things like flooding or anything like that because of the drought?

Rebecca: In certain areas when there's been big rainfalls, there has been a lot of flooding because the ground just doesn't soak it up. It's that dry, but other areas have got water so because Australia **is so vast**, so wide as well, yeah, there's different areas that are hit differently.

Todd: Ah, that's terrible. Well, I hope it gets better.

Rebecca: Yeah, so do I.