

11 CITIES AROUND THE WORLD THAT MAY RUN OUT OF WATER | 2018

- Cape Town has been in the news for a relentless drought that's been hitting the South African city. The doomed 'Day Zero' has been postponed to June 4, but Cape Town is not the only city in danger when it comes to water shortages. According to the [BBC](#), a 2014 study on the 500 biggest cities in the world showed that one in each four was 'in a situation of water stress.' With the postponing of 'Day Zero,' water consumption must be even more reduced now in Cape Town. The daily limit per person was around 87 liters, but it's now been brought down to 50 liters. According to [The Guardian](#), that number represents less than a third of the daily individual water consumption in the UK.
- According to the BBC, Brazil's financial capital Sao Paulo, which is one of the 10 most populated cities in the world, faced its worst drought in 80 years in 2015 when one of the main water reservoirs dropped below 4% capacity.
- According to the BBC, in Bangalore, India, 85% of lakes there are so polluted that their water could only be used for industrial cooling and irrigation. The lakes' water wasn't suitable for drinking or bathing. The plumbing system is also faulty, so much so that the city wastes over half of its drinking water.
- Around 40% of the surface water in Beijing, China, is so polluted that it can't be used for agricultural or industrial purpose. Around 20% of the world's population lives in China, but the country only has 7% of the planet's fresh water.
- The situation in Cairo, Egypt, is also concerning. It is estimated that 97% of the fresh water used in the country comes from the river Nile, which is becoming increasingly contaminated with 'untreated agricultural and residential waste.' The UN estimates critical water shortages in Egypt by the year 2025.
- In Jakarta, Indonesia, less than half of the city's ten million residents have access to piped water, which is why many have been illegally digging wells, 'draining the underground aquifers,' according to the BBC. Even though torrential rains fall in the area, the underground aquifers can't absorb that water because of the presence of asphalt and concrete in the ground.
- In Moscow, Russia, a quarter of the world's fresh water reserves are found but around 35% to 60% of the country's total drinking water reserves don't meet basic sanitary standards. It is estimated that around 70% of the water supply in the Russian capital depends on surface water, which is incredibly polluted.
- According to official numbers by the Turkish government, the country is currently in a water stress situation. The water supply per capita dropped to under 1,700 cubic meters in 2016. Some areas of the capital, Istanbul, have begun to experience harsh water shortages. In 2014, Istanbul's water reservoir levels fell below the 30 percent of capacity.
- Water shortages are no news to many of the 21 million inhabitants of Mexico City. On average, 20% of the population only has running water for a few hours a day. The city imports up to 40% of its water. Around 40% of the wasted water in the city is due to the faulty distribution system.
- The English capital, London, may suffer great supply problems by 2025 and 'serious shortages' by 2040. The average rainfall per year is about 600 mm (less than the average in Paris and half that of New York). London gets 80% of its water from the rivers Thames and Lea.
- The Japanese capital, Tokyo, has rainfall levels similar to the ones in Seattle (on the west coast of the US), which is known for being a rainy area. However, the rainfall is concentrated during only four months a year, which makes it hard to refill water supplies in the following months.
- Florida is one of the states most affected by strong rains in the country. However, a project designed to drain nearby swamps in Miami had an unexpected result. In Miami, the water from the Atlantic Ocean contaminated the Biscayne Aquifer, the city's biggest source of fresh water. To make it all worse, Miami has also seen a rise in sea level, which broke down underground defense barriers.

Taken from the following article on MSN: <http://www.msn.com/en-za/news/world/11-cities-around-the-world-that-may-run-out-of-water/ss-BBJcdOF?ocid=ientp#image=8>