



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Could Desalination Save us From Drought

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Desalination is the process where water is extracted from the sea and salt is separated from the water. The sea water becomes suitable for human consumption and the by-product of desalination is salt. Countries including the United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Australia has already made strides in this field and use desalinated water to augment drinking water supplies.

Water covers 70 percent of the earth's surface and salt water accounts for 97 percent of water on earth, it would bring much relief to tap into that source and make it available for human consumption. To date many animals have died due to dehydration and human beings in some drought stricken towns especially in the Free State have to wait in queues for water trucks to arrive. We have become accustomed to convenience of ordering online and same day delivery it is a big adjustment that people have now have to wait in queues to get water.

According to Christopher Gasson of Global Water Intelligence around 1% of the world's population are dependent on desalinated water to meet their daily needs, but by 2025, the United Nations expects 14% of the world's population to be encountering water scarcity. Unless people get radically better at water conservation, the desalination industry has a very strong future indeed. There are a number of methods and techniques used by different countries all over the world.

One may ask why then do we suffer from drought if there is a way to have fresh water produced from sea water. Why does government not focus all their efforts on building these plants all over the coastal cities, it will simply mean the end of drought forever. Pipelines could run all the way from the coast to the inland, water could be in abundance and rain could be considered a bonus. The answer to all these questions is quite simple, the process is expensive and therefore will not be sustainable as consumers would spend allot more than for water from rivers and dams. Intense research and scientific breakthrough has to be reached in order to bring the process to an affordable amount. Scientist do not foresee a drastic drop in cost in the near future for the process used.

Though not so bright, the future is not yet bleak, there seems to be a lot of room to grow. The continual conservation of water by communities plays an important role in maintaining current reserves. Everybody should have their local municipalities numbers on speed dial so that leaks can be reported as soon as possible to prohibit massive water loss. Working together we can save so much more water.