

NOAA: Expect Wetter North, Drier South This Winter

La Niña conditions are predicted to affect the upcoming U.S. winter season (December 2024 to February 2025), according to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [outlook](#) issued in October.

La Niña refers to an upwelling of abnormally cold water to the ocean surface, which can affect weather patterns.

Expected Conditions and Impacted Areas

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center anticipates "wetter-than-average" conditions for the northern half of the country this winter, especially around the following areas:

- Pacific Northwest
- Great Lakes region
- Northern and western Alaska

Across the South, warmer- and drier-than-average conditions are expected, including in the following regions:

- Southwest
- Southeast
- Gulf Coast
- Lower mid-Atlantic states

Additionally, NOAA forecasts "drought conditions to persist and worsen across the central and southern Plains."

According to NOAA, "more than a quarter of the land mass" in the country is currently in at least a moderate drought as of October. The forecasted winter conditions are not expected to provide much relief in this regard.

Proactive Home Maintenance

Given NOAA's winter climate predictions, homeowners should take the time now to inspect their properties and conduct preventive maintenance.

Consider the following home maintenance actions, which may vary depending on region:

- Clean gutters.
- Inspect the roof for leaks.
- Install storm windows.
- Change HVAC filters.
- Consider moisture control, such as a dehumidifier; in drier climates, consider a humidifier.
- Check window seals and caulking to prevent water or pest intrusion.
- Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working.

Review Insurance

Amid uncommon weather conditions, certain risks may be elevated, especially in wetter areas. These may include water backup issues and burst pipes, among others.

Review your insurance policy and discuss how to fill potential coverage gaps with MST Insurance Solutions, Inc.. It's essential to understand what your policy may or may not cover ahead of potential winter claims.