

FACT SHEET

Phase III Water Shortage Order No. SWF 25-015

The District's Governing Board extended its Water Shortage Order No. SWF 25-015 for all Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter counties; portions of Charlotte, Highlands and Lake counties; the City of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County; and the portion of Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County. The modified order is now effective through March 31, 2027.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Water resource conditions are extremely dry. The District addresses dry conditions through water shortage actions, which are temporary measures that restrict water use among the various types of permit holders during extended dry conditions.

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTIONS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

The following restrictions apply to the jurisdictions listed above:

- The Modified Phase III "Extreme" Water Shortage Order continues one day per week lawn watering Districtwide for all residents using potable, private well or surface water with strict watering hours.
- Watering hours are reduced to **midnight to 4 a.m. or 8 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.**; properties less than one acre in size may only use one of these windows.
- Unless your city or county already has stricter hours in effect, properties **one acre or larger** may only water **before 4 a.m. and after 8 p.m.**
- Watering days are based on the following schedule for addresses ending in:
 - 0 or 1 shall only water on Monday
 - 2 or 3, on Tuesday
 - 4 or 5, on Wednesday
 - 6 or 7, on Thursday
 - 8 or 9, on Friday along with locations with a mix of addresses or for which an address cannot be determined (such as common areas associated with a subdivision)
- Low-volume watering of plants and shrubs (micro-irrigation, soaker hoses, hand watering) is allowed any day but is limited to before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Pressure washing of buildings or other structures in preparation for painting, sealing or other necessary maintenance and as a construction practice is allowed. Pressure washing of driveways, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces is allowed for necessary maintenance, such as to either maintain a warranty or remove mold, mildew and other potentially hazardous material that cannot be removed by mechanical means (such as a broom or leaf blower), and as a construction practice (such as cleaning a concrete surface prior to painting or sealing). Compliance with homeowner association or other aesthetic standards does not constitute necessary maintenance. Annual pressure washing for aesthetic purposes is not allowed.
- No HOA or other entity shall enforce deed restrictions or other community standards requiring a homeowner to increase their use of surface water (i.e., pond or lake), potable or domestic well water use. This includes requiring a homeowner to replace plant material or to pressure wash homes and driveways to meet aesthetic standards. Compliance with a homeowner association or other aesthetic standards does not constitute necessary maintenance.

- Car, truck and other mobile equipment washing at home (non-commercial) shall be accomplished using low-volume methods only such as a hand-held hose equipped with a trigger (self-canceling) nozzle and shall be restricted to only one washing a week. This one washing a week shall only occur on the allowable lawn watering day associated with the address at which the activity occurs.
- Aesthetic fountain use is limited to **four** hours a day. The regular hours of operation can be selected by the owner but must be posted. Exemptions for koi ponds, small fountains, interactive commercial/institutional recreation areas and other incidental uses (see Rule).
- Restaurants are required to only serve water upon request.
- A full list of restrictions is provided on WaterMatters.org/Restrictions.
- Water utilities, in consultation with applicable local enforcement agencies, must:
 - Utilities must continue to implement Phase III water conservation efforts, including customer education about the current water shortage and ways to conserve water.
 - Water utilities and other local enforcement officials must continue their enforcement efforts, including responding to citizen complaints, and monitoring water use through patrols or customer records.
 - Utilities and other local enforcement officials are to continue issuing citations first without issuing a warning.
 - Any violations should be reported to the appropriate local utility.

ANY QUESTIONS?

- Visit the District's website at WaterMatters.org/Restrictions for more information.
- Send an inquiry to WaterMatters.org/Restrictions at any time.
- Call (813) 856-5679 during business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.