

FACT SHEET

Phase III Water Shortage Order No. SWF 25-015

The District's Governing Board modified 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 effective April 3, 2026, through July 1, 2026.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Water resource conditions are extremely dry and may get worse before they start to improve. 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:

Beginning April 3, 2026, 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, including residents on private wells, with stricter watering hours.
- Watering hours are reduced to **12:01 a.m. 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 in preparation for painting and sealing is allowed.
- No HOA or other entity shall enforce deed restrictions or other community standards requiring an increase in water use, including replacement of plant material to meet aesthetic standards or pressure washing (i.e., driveways).
- Car washing at home (non-commercial) is only allowed on your lawn watering day and you must use a hose with a shutoff nozzle.

- 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](https://www.watermatters.org/restrictions).
- Water utilities, in consultation with applicable local enforcement agencies, must:
 - Utilities must 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 increase their enforcement efforts, including responding to citizen complaints, and monitoring water use through patrols or customer records.
 - Starting 14 days after the effective date of the water shortage order, utilities and other local enforcement officials are to issue 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](https://www.watermatters.org/restrictions) for more information.
- Send an inquiry to [WaterMatters.org/Restrictions](https://www.watermatters.org/restrictions) at any time.
- Call (813) 856-5679 during business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.