



Outdoor water restrictions

Together, we can protect the water we all depend on.



Water wise tips:

- If you have a rain barrel, use the rainwater you collected to water your plants.
- Adding gravel or mulch on top of flower beds will help retain moisture in your soil.
- Incorporating drought tolerant plants that thrive on less water will keep your yard looking beautiful for longer.

There are times when The City of Calgary we may need to call on all Calgarians to temporarily reduce their non-essential outdoor water use such as when:

- Less water is available in the rivers, due to drought
- We are repairing or upgrading our water treatment infrastructure
- Water demand is high due to hot temperatures and is straining the capacity of our water treatment plants
- River water quality is poor, and it takes longer to treat

If we all do our part and follow the restrictions when they're in place, we can reduce the strain on the rivers and water treatment plants.

We all need to do our part

The restrictions apply to all City of Calgary Water Utility customers, including:

- Residences
- Businesses and organizations
- City of Calgary operations

There are some exceptions that allow certain customers to continue outdoor water use for health and safety reasons or for core business needs. This includes:

- Watering plants, shrubs and trees for commercial sale.
- Washing outdoor surfaces for childcare facilities, restaurants, kennel and animal care facilities.
- Washing of vehicles subject to health and safety regulations.
- Businesses that have a license to operate exterior window washing services.

During times of water shortages, The City of Calgary also reduces water use. This includes reducing or restricting sprinkler systems at more than 500 parks and turning off decorative fountains and features.

Take action when outdoor water restrictions are declared:

1. Find out what water restriction stage is in place.

Outdoor water restrictions will be announced through local news and social media.

2. Understand how you can water and when you can use water outdoors.

Depending on the water restriction stage, please refer to the following table to understand what mandatory actions to take.

3. Stay informed.

We're constantly monitoring our city's water usage to determine the restriction necessary and will advise of any changes.

We strive to take an education-first approach with citizens and businesses about the importance of reducing water use, rather than enforcement.

Failure to follow a restriction can result in a fine.










Stage 1 violation	\$400
Stage 2 violation	\$600
Stage 3 violation	\$1500
Stage 4 violation	\$3000



Customers using a Water Managed System with a certificate from The City must reduce their watering by a certain percentage depending on the stage of restriction.

Outdoor water restriction stages

There are four stages of mandatory outdoor water restrictions, based on the severity of the water shortage. These restrictions are enforceable by the Water Utility Bylaw 40M2006.

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Sprinklers 	YES 2 hr max., one day/week	YES 1 hr max., one day/week	NO	NO
	Watering schedule is based on house number: Even house number: Wednesday or Saturday Odd house number: Thursday or Sunday Watering is allowed between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 a.m. – 7 a.m.; or • 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.; or • 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. 		NO	NO
Hoses with spray nozzle  Only for gardens, trees and shrubs	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO	NO
Hand watering 	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO
Watering new grass 	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO
Washing outdoor:  Cars, windows, exterior building surfaces, sidewalks, driveways or walkways	NO	NO	NO	NO
Filling outdoor pools or hot tubs 	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO	NO
Filling of fountains and other decorative features 	NO	NO	NO	NO
Water use for construction purposes including grading, compaction and dust control 	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO
Water use after applying pesticides or fertilizer 	NO	NO	NO	NO

Visit calgary.ca/restrictions for more information