City of Corpus Christi
Stage 2 Water Restrictions
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Year-Round restrictions?

1) No sprinkler irrigation between 10am and 6 pm.
2) No person shall allow water to run off a property into streets
3) No person shall allow water to flow constantly through a tap, hydrant, or valve;
4) Defective plumbing resulting in water loss or leaks must be repaired.
5) No person shall use any non-recycling decorative water fountain
6) Irrigation heads or sprinklers are not permitted to spray directly on paved surfaces, such as driveways or sidewalks in public right-of-ways.
7) An irrigation system cannot operate at water pressures higher than recommended, causing heads to mist, or to operate with broken heads.

What are the mandatory restrictions in Stage 2?

1) Sprinkler Irrigation Limited to ONE DAY PER WEEK. The designated watering day is on the customer’s garbage pickup day.
2) Hand-held and drip irrigation Allowed any time, any day with a hand-held bucket, hand-held hose, or drip irrigation system equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle(includes soaker hoses).
3) Car washing Limited to designated watering day, except at a commercial car wash. Car washing at home shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses.
4) Decorative Ponds, Fountains and Waterfalls All residential fountains and indoor commercial fountains are permitted to operate. Outdoor commercial fountains can operate but must have a variance permit.
5) Water Use from Hydrants Permitted for construction purposes (i.e. dust control) with special permit. Water is also permitted for firefighting and purposes necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare (i.e. flushing dead-end mains).
6) Foundations The use of water to maintain the integrity of building foundations is permitted on any day at any time only by use of hand-held or drip hose.
7) Filling Pools Limited to designated watering day.
8) Washing buildings, sidewalks, etc. Prohibited, except for business purposes or if in interest of public health and safety. (PERMIT REQUIRED)

In addition, the City Manager may implement additional water conservation restrictions should there be a need.
**Why do we have to implement these restrictions?**

Current dry weather patterns have been in place for an extended period of time. Taking actions now will help reduce our demand on our supply. Reducing demand will help ensure we have available water should conditions not improve and we experience severe or extreme conditions. Our actions are in line with the agreement between the City and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The agreement outlines provisions to be implemented during drought conditions. Those conditions are triggered based on the combined storage levels of the two lakes that serve as reservoirs for our water supply.

**These provisions focus on outdoor watering. Does that really make a difference?**

Limiting outdoor water does help – up 50 gallons per person per day. In Corpus Christi, the average municipal water customer uses a total of 120 gallons per day - both inside and out. Studies have shown that on average, Americans use 65-70 gallons of water for inside activities alone for things like drinking, bathing, and washing clothes. That difference of up to 50 gallons of water per person per day makes a significant difference over time.

**Why does the City issue fines if someone violates the watering restrictions?**

We know from previous droughts that most of our residents believe in water conservation and preserving our water supply. The penalties encourage compliance from those who might not take the current drought conditions seriously.

**Why do we have to conserve when we have water from the Mary Rhodes Pipeline?**

The City has an agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Provisions of the agreement are based on the levels of the combined reservoir storage of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon. The TECQ Agreement takes into consideration a wide range of environmental impacts as the reservoir capacities decline. Water from the Mary Rhodes Pipeline does not enter into the reservoir system. To minimize evaporation losses, the Mary Rhodes Pipeline was designed to bring the water directly to the O.N. Stevens water plant -- not to the reservoirs.

Water from the Mary Rhodes Pipeline does favorably impact our storage capacity levels. Since introducing the water from the Mary Rhodes Pipeline, water storage levels in our reservoir system have trended 2 – 4% higher than historical levels. In addition, under certain drought conditions in other parts of the state, the water from the Mary Rhodes Pipeline will not be available to the City. Being good stewards of our resources is everyone's responsibility.
Is the City looking at alternative sources to meet our need for fresh water?

The Environmental & Strategic Initiatives Department works with our regional partners to research opportunities to access additional water. There are currently more than 20 strategies under evaluation. They range from relatively inexpensive (ways to enhance municipal conservation) to more costly (brackish or saltwater desalination).

Why do I still see the Utilities Department opening up the fire hydrants?

The city's water supply system is tested regularly. Should there be any indication of reduced quality, the Utilities Department "flushes" the system until the issue has been resolved. Citizens may see water flowing from the hydrants as the system is flushed.

Are there other things I can do to conserve water besides limiting outdoor watering?

Observe the 4-Ls:

- Loads - Run only full loads in your laundry and dishwasher
- Leaks - Take a look at your plumbing to make sure you do not have any water loss from leaks
- Limits - Limit your water use in the bathroom by taking shorter showers and using water efficient fixtures.
- Lawns - Look for water friendly alternatives like drought tolerant plants when landscaping

Who can I contact for more information?

More information is available on the website at www.cctexas.com/water or you may call the Drought Hotline at 826-1600.