



# Stage 1 Frequently Asked Questions

## How do we get to Stage 1 Restrictions?

Fort Worth purchases raw water from Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). Our water sources include Lake Worth, Benbrook Lake, Eagle Mountain Lake, Lake Bridgeport and two east Texas sources, Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers reservoirs. TRWD requires its customers to initiate Stage 1 of its Drought Contingency Plan when combined storage capacity reaches 75 percent.

In Stage 1, the goal is to reduce water use by 5 percent.

## When can I water when these restrictions are in effect?

- **Monday** - No landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems
- **Tuesday and Friday** - Non-residential locations (apartment complexes, businesses, parks, medians, etc.)
- **Wednesday and Saturday** - Residences ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, or 8)
- **Thursday and Sunday** - Residences ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, or 9)

## What do I do if I see someone violating the restrictions?

If you see a neighbor in violation of the restrictions, you can share with them that we are in restrictions and must follow a twice a week schedule or you can anonymously report online. If you don't have computer access, you can also call Customer Service at 817-392-8740 or 817-392-4477.

## When does my watering day start?

The day begins at midnight and ends at 11:59 p.m., with no watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

## If I water by hand, do I have to follow the twice a week schedule?

No, watering by hand, drip irrigation or soaker hose is allowed any time on any day. However, watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is discouraged due to loss in evaporation, and you cannot create runoff.

## What if I have new grass that needs to be established?

Although planting of new turf is discouraged, customers can apply for a 30 day variance if hydromulch, grass sod or grass seed has been installed. If approved, they can water for the first 30 days to establish roots. After that, the twice a week schedule applies. This exception does not apply to over seeding with annual rye.

## Can repairs be made to a sprinkler system between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.?

Yes, supervised testing, repair or maintenance of a sprinkler system is an exception to water running more than 50 feet from the property.

## How long does it take to process a variance?

Please allow 3-4 business days for a response.

## Can I still water my foundation to protect my home?

Yes. Foundations can be watered up to two hours on any day by hand, soaker hose or with drip irrigation, placed within 24 inches of the foundation.

## Are gas well drillers impacted?

In Stage 1, gas well drillers are not impacted; however, the City is working with them to minimize impact on our water system by taking reclaimed water\* where possible. Fort Worth currently has a 11.5-mile pipeline on the east side of the city, which allows reclaimed water to be used in applications such as landscape irrigation, cooling towers and gas production operations.

*\*Reclaimed water is water that has been treated from our wastewater treatment plant before being discharged into the river. This water does not impact the potable water supply.*

It is also important to note that gas well drillers use 1 percent of Fort Worth's total water usage. Because water use increases 50 to 70 percent in the summer due to outdoor watering, irrigation presents the greatest opportunity for water reductions.

## Can I wash my car in the yard or driveway?

Yes, as long as you use a bucket and positive-pressure shutoff nozzle on your garden hose. Commercial car washes are not impacted in this stage.

## My business washes the sidewalk to keep the area clean. Is this allowed in Stage 1?

In Stage 1, hosing of paved areas such as sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts or other impervious surfaces is prohibited. The only exception is to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard.

## Are there exceptions for golf courses?

Golf courses can water greens and tee boxes without restrictions before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Fairways are restricted to twice a week watering and course roughs, are restricted to once a week watering.

## How is the City addressing violations?

City staff is distributing door hangers and letters to properties that are in violation of the restrictions. Subsequent violations will be subject to a backflow lock out with administrative fees. Continued violations may be cited with fines up to \$2,000 a day, with each day considered a new offense.





©2018 City of Fort Worth, Texas  
All rights reserved  
200 Texas St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

