



City of Houston Stage Two Drought Contingency Plan FAQs

When did the City of Houston enter Stage Two of the Drought Contingency Plan?

The City of Houston entered Stage Two of the City's Drought Contingency Plan, effective August 27, 2023.

Why did the City of Houston implement Stage Two of the Drought Contingency Plan?

Stage Two was triggered due to intense heat combined with a significant drop in annual rainfall. This resulted in greater water use and dried up the soil, leading to an increase in water leaks, which can impact water pressures.

The Stage Two designation of the Drought Contingency Plan applies to the entire City, including systems that are supplied by groundwater only.

How do Stage Two mandatory water use restrictions affect water customers?

Stage Two drought response imposes the following mandatory restrictions limiting outdoor water use to twice a week between the hours of 7PM and 5AM with the following schedule:

- **Sundays and Thursdays** for **single-family residential** customers with **even-numbered** street addresses
- **Saturdays and Wednesdays** for **single-family residential** customers with **odd-numbered** street addresses
- **Tuesdays and Fridays** for **all other customers**
- Any outdoor water use that drains onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets or gutters is prohibited.

Can I be fined for violating Stage Two water use restrictions?

Yes. Any water customer who violates these watering times will be issued a written warning for a first-time violation. Any subsequent violations are subject to a fine up to \$2,000 for each occurrence of the offense (Section 54.001 of the Texas Local Government Code).

How is the City addressing water leaks in the distribution system?

Houston Public Works is monitoring the system closely and is working to add contractors to assist with mitigation of leaks as quickly as possible. We are asking the community to help conserve water where they can.

[Please call 311](#) and report water leaks so our crews can address them as soon as possible. If a reported leak has worsened, please call 311 again to notify Houston Water that the leak has become more serious.

Are there any watering methods that are allowed at any time or on any day?

Customers can use a handheld garden hose to water their flower beds and/or trees.

How do watering restrictions apply to gated homeowner's associations (HOAs) which are all on a master meter?

Houston Public Works is reaching out to HOAs across the city with the mandatory water restriction schedule. Residents should follow the schedule according to the individual address of each home.

The master water bill address should be used to determine the schedule for watering of all common areas of the community.

What if my homeowner's association (HOA) has watering requirements or is not following the recommended watering restrictions?

Please reach out to your HOA and remind them of the City's watering restrictions. If the issue continues, please contact the water conservation team at WaterConservation@houstontx.gov. They will contact your HOA to provide guidance.

Do water restrictions apply in Houston's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction?

Water restrictions apply to all customers who receive a water bill from the City of Houston and all wholesale treated water customers.

Where can I find a copy of the City's Drought Contingency Plan?

The City of Houston Drought Contingency Plan can be found on the water conservation webpage at houstonpublicworks.org/waterconservation.

How else can I help conserve water?

- Check and repair water leaks, including dripping faucets and running toilets.
- Check sprinkler heads to make sure water is not spraying into the street or directly into a storm drain and/or gutters.
- Avoid washing sidewalks, patio furniture or cars. If you must wash your car, use a car wash. Most car washes use recycled water.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full.
- Take shorter showers.
- Install a rain barrel and use it for outdoor watering.
- Turn off the water when you are not using it (e.g., while brushing teeth, scrubbing hands or shaving).

For additional water-saving tips please visit Houston Public Work's Water Conservation webpage at www.GiveWateraBreak.org

If you have additional questions not addressed in this FAQ, please contact the Water Programs team at WaterConservation@houstontx.gov