



Outdoor water restrictions

What you need to know.

For residential and business customers



Why do we have outdoor water restrictions?

Drinking water shortages can be caused for many reasons.

The restrictions will be put into effect only if the city experiences a water shortage.

River water may be silty or unusually difficult to treat. The City could be repairing a major water main. Or we could be making improvements to one of our drinking water treatment plants.

Whatever the situation, we need to ensure there's enough drinking water and water to fight fires.

When these events occur, there may not be enough water for outdoor use.

Outdoor watering restrictions are put in place only when necessary.

There are four levels. Stage one allows limited sprinkler use. At stage four, the most serious level, almost all outdoor uses of drinking water are restricted.

The levels have been created, in consultation with Calgarians, to ensure The City of Calgary responds appropriately to the severity of the water shortage with minimal disruptions.

During restrictions, please:

Find out the stage

To find out the stage of water restriction (one to four) and what area of the city it affects:

- check our website at calgary.ca.
- call 3-1-1.
- watch/listen to local media.

Find out when and how you can use water outside

Use the chart in this brochure to find out what you can and can't do. For example, during stage one and two, a specific day of the week will be assigned (according to postal code prefixes) for watering with a sprinkler. To determine your watering day, use the postal code chart in this brochure.

Keep updated

If the situation changes, the stage may also change.

see the water restrictions chart on the reverse

If you don't follow a restriction, you can be fined

Stage 1 violation	\$200
Stage 2 violation	\$300
Stage 3 violation	\$400
Stage 4 violation	\$500



THE CITY OF
CALGARY

Outdoor Watering Restrictions Chart

WATERING ACTIVITY	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Watering with a sprinkler or irrigation system* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lawn • garden • trees or shrubs 	allowed one day per week as per your postal code prefix. Up to two hours from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.	allowed one day per week as per your postal code prefix. Up to one hour from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.	not allowed	not allowed
Watering with a spring-loaded nozzle with automatic shut-off, connected to a hose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gardens • trees or shrubs 	allowed	allowed	not allowed	not allowed
Watering with a hand-held container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gardens • trees or shrubs 	allowed	allowed	allowed	not allowed
Watering of new grass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sod within 21 days • seed within 45 days 	allowed	allowed	allowed	not allowed
Washing down outdoor surfaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surfaces • exterior building surfaces • sidewalks, driveways or walkways 	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed
Using water for filling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor decorative features • fountains 	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed
Using water for filling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming pools • wading pools • hot tubs 	allowed	allowed	not allowed	not allowed
Using water for construction purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grading • compaction • dust control 	allowed	allowed	allowed	not allowed

*You can apply to have your property certified by The City of Calgary as a **Water Managed Site**. These sites must have efficient irrigation systems that can be correctly programmed. If outdoor watering restrictions are imposed, these sites follow less-restrictive watering guidelines than other sites.

Use a rain barrel

Even if there's a restriction, you can always use rainwater. Collect it in a container like a rain barrel and use it to water your garden.



About car washing

During an outdoor watering restriction, commercial vehicle washes may still operate. But unless you need to wash your vehicle for health and safety reasons, we may ask you to postpone it, especially during level three or four restrictions.



As for washing your car by hand on the street, you're never allowed to let soap and detergent enter the storm drainage system. If this happens, it goes into our rivers untreated. The water from commercial vehicle washes, on the other hand, gets treated by The City's sanitary system.

Day of Watering by Postal Code Prefix Stages 1 and 2				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
T2E	T3J	T1Y	T2A	T3K
T2K	T3L	T3B	T3A	T2L
T3G	T2N	T2M	T2C	T2J
T2G	T3M	T2H	T2Z	T3E
T2P	T2R	T2X	T3C	T2T
T2Y	T2W	T3H	T2S	T1X
T3P	T3N	T3Z	T3S	T2B
		T3R		
		T2V		
Saturday and Sunday No Watering Allowed				

To find out more

To find more information about water restrictions the water utility bylaw and water conservation tips, visit The City of Calgary Water Services website at calgary.ca/waterservices or call 3-1-1.

There are some exceptions

During a restriction, everyone (including businesses) must comply. However, in order to follow health and safety regulations, these businesses may wash outdoor surfaces:

- child care facilities
- food and beverage establishments; and
- kennels or animal care facilities.

Businesses can also

- wash vehicles to follow health and safety regulations
- operate licensed car washes
- water livestock
- water plants, shrubs or trees for sale; and
- operate licensed exterior window-washing services.

What is The City doing?

During any level of restriction, The City conserves water. We won't clean streets or bridges, unless there's a health or safety reason. We won't wash City vehicles. And we'll stop watering our parks with treated water.

**At The City,
we're putting
rainwater and
river water to
good use.**

We must use water to fight fires, and to flush water hydrants or water mains in order to test or restore services. We'll also use water to follow health and safety regulations.

We're using water wisely

Rainwater and river water are good ways to water our plants. Most of our golf courses and many of our parks use these types of water. Look for signs at these locations, and on our watering trucks, that show we use this water.