

Conservation Stage Restrictions

This stage includes year-round irrigation restrictions in place for all customers.

- Automatic irrigation - one day a week for up to 15 hours
- Hose-end sprinklers - up to two days a week for a total of 30 hours

Irrigation methods allowed any time on any day:

- Watering landscapes with drip irrigation and hand-held hoses
- Watering trees with a bubbler, irrigation bag, or soaker hose
- Watering vegetable gardens with a soaker hose

Triggers for Additional Restriction Levels

The [Drought Contingency Plan](#) includes additional irrigation restrictions that the City Manager may implement to further reduce water use from Conservation Stage. These higher restrictions can be triggered in three ways:

- **Water Supply**
Lakes Travis and Buchanan, which are managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), hold just over two million acre-feet of water. Reduced water storage levels in these lakes may indicate the presence of drought conditions. Restrictions increase as lake levels get lower.
- **Water Demand**
Austin's three treatment plants can treat and distribute up to 335 million gallons of water a day. Water usage that approaches plant capacity can trigger more restrictions, although Austin has not come near capacity in recent years.
- **Emergency Conditions**
These include equipment failure, system outage, water source contamination or other similar situations.

Water Supply Triggers

Storage in Lakes Travis & Buchanan →	Restrictions City Manager May Implement →	Water Use Reduction Goal →	Irrigation Restrictions →	Storage Where City Manager May Consider Lifting Restrictions
Below 1.4 million acre-feet (MAF)	Stage 1	5%	Automatic: 1x/week (13 hours) Hose-end: 2x/week (30 hours)	1.4 MAF and expected to stay above 1.4 MAF for four months
Below 900,000 acre-feet (AF)	Stage 2	10 to 20%	Automatic/Hose-end: 1x/week (10-15 hours)	1.1 MAF and expected to stay above 900,000 AF for four months
Below 600,000 AF or LCRA declares drought worse than drought of record	Stage 3 or Additional Restrictions to meet LCRA requirements	At least 20% from a baseline approved by LCRA	Automatic/Hose-end: 1x/week (6 hours)	Expected to remain above 600,000 AF for four months/conditions no longer require mandatory curtailment

Water Demand Triggers

Water Pumped from Austin's Water Treatment Plants →	Restrictions City Manager May Implement →	Water Use Reduction Goal →	Irrigation Restrictions →	Water Usage Where City Manager May Consider Lifting Restrictions
300 million gallons a day (MGD) for 3 days in a row	Stage 2	Reduce current use by 15% of 300 MGD	Automatic/Hose-end: 1x/week (10-15 hours)	Based on daily supply and demand
320 MGD for one day	Stage 2	Reduce current use by 15% of 320 MGD	Automatic/Hose-end: 1x/week (10-15 hours)	Based on daily supply and demand

Emergency Triggers

Trigger	Restrictions City Manager May Implement →	Water Use Reduction Goal →	Irrigation Restrictions →	Conditions Where City Manager May Consider Lifting Restrictions
As determined by City Manager	Stage 4 or Additional Restrictions	Reduce use to levels deemed necessary	Prohibited	Based on daily water demand or the end of the emergency condition