

# NOTICE OF STAGE CHANGE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

SOUTHERN UTILITIES COMPANY is hereby notifying its water customers that Stage Two will be RESCINDED and will revert back to Stage One voluntary use restrictions of Southern Utilities approved Drought Contingency Plan.

**EFFECTIVE ON: Saturday October 1, 2022**

Stage Two of the Drought Contingency plan that was implemented during the summer drought event is hereby rescinded. Due to the expected drought in its service area, Southern Utilities Company will continue with implementing Stage One of its Drought Contingency Plan. The customer demand on Southern Utilities Company's drinking water system operates at a high demand. This high demand is primarily created by active landscape irrigation systems and outside residential water use. Southern Utilities Company drinking water system requests the voluntary reduction of water usage to maintain sufficient capacity and pressure to adequately operate the water system.

**STAGE TWO – MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE RESCINDED ON OCTOBER 1, 2022.**

Stage Two of the Drought Contingency Plan was implemented on Wednesday July 26, 2022, during a summer drought event. Stage Two restrictions included NO recreational outside water use. The installation of shut-off nozzles on all outside water hoses. The use of landscape irrigation systems and outside lawn watering methods were restricted to only one (1) day per calendar week, as indicated below:

STREET ADDRESS	HOURS TO WATER	DAYS TO WATER
Even Number Street Address	Between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM	Tuesdays only
Odd Number Street Address	Between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM	Thursdays only

**STAGE ONE – VOLUNTARY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON OCTOBER 1, 2022**

**Stage One** – Stage One is defined as the voluntary restriction of residential and recreational water use including, but not limited to, the outside washing of home windows/siding, driveways, vehicles, boats, and trailers. The use of landscape irrigation systems and outside lawn watering methods should be voluntarily reduced to two (2) days per calendar week.

Please limit the use of all landscape irrigation systems and all outside lawn watering methods to the following specific assigned days and times:

**(NOTE: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are specifically not included in the below schedule)**

STREET ADDRESS	HOURS TO WATER	DAYS TO WATER
Even Number Street Address	Between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM	Mondays and Wednesdays
Odd Number Street Address	Between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM	Tuesdays and Thursdays

**ANY WATER USE THAT IS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITARY PURPOSES SHOULD BE VOLUNTARILY REDUCED.**

**Stage One will remain in effect until you are notified otherwise.**

Voluntary compliance, by all customers, with the voluntary restrictions of Stage One above should allow an adequate supply of water for all customers. Be assured, Southern Utilities Company's drinking water system maintains adequate capacity, pressure, and volume to satisfy all customer demand essential for health, safety, and sanitary purposes.

Southern Utilities Company appreciates your assistance in this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael R. Farrell, General Manager, at 903.566.3511 for further discussion.

# WATER CONSERVATION

## SAVE WATER INSIDE YOUR HOME

### Kitchen

- Scrape dishes clean instead of rinsing them before washing. There is no need to rinse dishes unless they are heavily soiled.
- Use a pan of water, or place a stopper in the sink, for washing and rinsing pots, pans, dishes, and cooking implements rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
- Never run the dishwasher without a full load. This will save water, energy, detergent and money.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly or start a compost pile.
- Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running water from the tap until it is cool is wasteful. Better still, both water and energy can be saved by keeping cold water in a picnic jug on the kitchen counter to avoid opening the refrigerator door frequently.
- Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning fruits and vegetables rather than running water from the faucet over them.
- Use only a little water in the pot and put a lid on it for cooking most food. Not only does this method save water, but food is more nutritious since vitamins and minerals are not poured down the drain with the extra cooking water.
- Always keep water conservation in mind and think of other ways to save in the kitchen. Small savings, like not making too much coffee, can add up in a year's time.

### Bath

- Take a shower instead of a bath. Showers with low-flow shower heads often use less water than taking a bath.
- Reduce the level of the water being used in a bathtub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
- Shampoo hair in the shower. Shampooing in the shower takes only a little more water than is used to shampoo hair during a bath and much less than shampooing and bathing separately.
- When building a new home or remodeling a bathroom, install a low-flow shower head that limits the flow to less than 3 gallons per minute and a new low-volume flush toilet which is required to use 1.6 gallons per flush or less.
- When toilets cannot be replaced, consider displacing some of the water in the tank. Plastic bottles, such as clean, empty milk or chlorine jugs, can be filled with water and weighted down with a few stones and then placed in the most open portion of the tank. This will save as much water as is displaced by the bottle. Make sure the bottle does not interfere with the operation of the moving parts in the tank. Displacement devices should be checked periodically to ensure that they remain in place.  
**NOTE: Do not use bricks as a displacement device. They will erode and the particles can clog your drainage system.**
- Test toilets for leaks and if leaks are discovered, repair them immediately.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts or other trash. This wastes a great deal of water and places an unnecessary load on a septic system or a sewage treatment plant. system.
- When brushing teeth, turn the water off until it is time to rinse.
- When shaving, fill the lavatory basin with warm water instead of letting the water run continuously.
- Install faucet aerators to reduce water consumption.

### Laundry

- Traditional clothes washers use approximately 41 gallons per load, while high efficiency machines use only 23 gallons per load. Replace outdated machines whenever possible.
- Wash only a full load when using an automatic washing machine (32 to 59 gallons per load is required).
- Whenever possible, use the lowest water-level setting on the washing machine for light or partial loads.
- Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and to conserve the hot water for uses that cold water cannot serve.

## **WATER CONSERVATION SAVE WATER OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**

### **Private Plumbing System**

- Check water requirements of various models and brands when considering purchasing any new appliances. Some use significantly less water than others.
- Check all water line connections and faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day (5,000 gallons per month) and will add cost to your water bill.
- Learn to repair faucets so that drips can be corrected promptly. It is easy to do, costs very little, and can mean a substantial savings in plumbing and water bills.
- Check for hidden water leakage such as a leak between the water meter and the house. To check, turn off all indoor and outdoor faucets and water-using appliances. Follow “Step 4: Check for Leaks” contained on the information sheet entitled “HOW TO READ YOUR WATER METER”. Repair all leaks on your private plumbing system immediately.
- Insulate all hot water pipes to reduce the delays (and wasted water) experienced while waiting for the water to run hot.
- Be sure the water heater thermostat is not set too high. Extremely hot settings waste water and energy because the water often has to be cooled with cold water before it can be used. Setting the thermostat too high can also be dangerous, as water too hot can result in scalding or burns.
- Use a moisture meter to determine when house plants need water. More plants die from overwatering than from needing water.

### **Lawn and Garden**

- Water yards only when needed. Look at the grass, feel the soil, or use a soil moisture meter to determine when to water.
- Do not over-water. Soil can absorb only so much moisture and the rest simply runs off. A timer will help - either a kitchen timer or an alarm clock will do. One and a half inches of water (about the height of a can of tuna fish) applied once a week in the summer will keep most Texas grasses alive and healthy.
- Water lawns early in the morning during the hotter summer months. Otherwise, much of the water used on the lawn can simply evaporate between the sprinkler heads and the grass.
- To avoid excessive evaporation, use a sprinkler head that produces large drops of water, rather than a fine mist. Sprinkler heads that send droplets out on a low angle also help control evaporation.
- Set automatic sprinkler systems to provide thorough, but infrequent watering. Pressure-regulating devices should be set to design specifications. Rain shutoff devices can prevent watering in the rain.
- Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, or shrubs, or turn soaker hoses upside-down so the holes are on the bottom. This will help avoid evaporation also.
- Forget about watering the streets, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, etc. They will never grow a thing. Use a broom to sweep all streets, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, etc. rather than washing with water.
- Vehicle washing should be done with a handheld bucket or a handheld garden hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Do not allow garden hoses to run continuously.