

**Pasco County is under Modified Phase III “Extreme Water Shortage” restrictions starting April 3, 2026, limiting outdoor watering to one assigned day per week with specific nighttime hours.**

### **Overview**

Due to ongoing drought conditions, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has declared a **Modified Phase III “Extreme Water Shortage”** affecting Pasco County and surrounding areas. These restrictions are in effect from **April 3 through July 1, 2026** and apply to all residents, including those on private wells, potable water, or surface water sources.

### **Lawn and Landscape Watering**

- **Frequency:** One day per week for properties using potable, well, or surface water.
- **Watering Hours:** 12:01 a.m. to 4 a.m. or 8 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. for properties under one acre; properties one acre or larger may only water before 4 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- **Assigned Days by Address:**
  - Ends in 0 or 1 → Monday
  - Ends in 2 or 3 → Tuesday
  - Ends in 4 or 5 → Wednesday
  - Ends in 6 or 7 → Thursday
  - Ends in 8 or 9 or mixed/no address → Friday.
- **Reclaimed Water:** Allowed twice per week with specific days depending on address; watering hours remain restricted to before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- **Handwatering and Microirrigation:** Permitted any day but limited to **before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.**
- **New Plantings:** Newly planted sod, seeds, or trees have a **30-day exemption** from restrictions, with notification to the county required.

### **Other Outdoor Water Use**

- **Car Washing:** Allowed only on your assigned watering day using a hose with a shutoff nozzle; fundraising car washes are prohibited unless scheduled before March 24, 2026.
- **Fountains:** Limited to **four hours per day**, with posted schedules.
- **Pressure Washing:** Allowed only for preparation for painting or sealing; aesthetic pressure washing is prohibited.
- **Restaurants:** Water is served **only upon request.**

## Enforcement and Penalties

- Local utilities and enforcement officials will monitor water use and respond to complaints.
- Citations will be issued **without warning starting 14 days after April 3:**
- 1st offense: \$25
- 2nd offense: \$100
- 3rd offense: \$250
- 4th and subsequent offenses: \$500.

## Conservation Tips

- Check for leaks and repair sprinkler systems.
- Water during cooler hours to reduce evaporation.
- Use drip irrigation or group plants with similar water needs.
- Consider rain sensors and mulch to retain soil moisture.
- Take advantage of free irrigation evaluations offered by UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County.

Residents are encouraged to follow these restrictions carefully to conserve water, protect public water supplies, and comply with local regulations during the drought.