



**St. Petersburg Q & A Fact Sheet
for Customer Service Personnel**
April 3, 2026 to October 1, 2026

MODIFIED PHASE 3 WATER SHORTAGE ORDER
GENERAL WATERING RESTRICTIONS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Why do we have watering restrictions?

A: St. Petersburg is in a water caution area as defined by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and is committed to water conservation. Water Shortage Order #SWF 25-015 started on December 1, 2025 due to drought conditions, a reduction in water source levels and a significant rainfall deficit. *Due to worsening conditions, stricter measures were mandated to start February 8, 2026 and end October 1, 2026 that include a once-a-week irrigation schedule and more stringent water use restrictions and enforcement measures.*

Q: Are there fines associated with a watering violation?

A: **YES! STARTING ON APRIL 17th, 2026, A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE VIOLATION (MOV) CITATION WILL BE ISSUED FOR ALL VIOLATIONS.** This includes first time violations observed by enforcement personnel. **No Warning Notices** will be issued. A MOV is a formal judicial process involving the County Court System. The citation for a Class II Municipal Ordinance Offense is subject to a \$193 fine, plus court costs. Subsequent violations will be subject to higher fines as assessed by the court.

Q: How long will these restrictions last?

A: Until October 1, 2026, unless extended, modified or rescinded by the SWFWMD. More aggressive water shortage actions may become necessary if conditions worsen.

Q: How do I know if St. Petersburg water restrictions apply to me?

A: There are two requirements that must be met:
1. You receive your water bill from St. Petersburg
2. Your property is within St. Petersburg city limits

Q: Which types of water sources are restricted?

A: The restrictions apply to the use of potable (drinking) and private well water sources.

Q: Is reclaimed water use restricted?

A: The city has enacted dry weather protocols to conserve the city's supply of reclaimed water and has temporarily lowered the pressure to decrease the flow of reclaimed water during the hottest times of the day. This helps ensure that the quantity of reclaimed water will be sufficient for irrigating overnight and in the early morning. Reclaimed water customers may notice decreased pressure coming from their sprinklers from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Watering during the heat of the day is inefficient as much of the water is lost to evaporation and wind drift. They are encouraged to adjust their irrigation timers to only water according to the City's year-round reclaimed water irrigation schedule of three times a week from 5 to 9 a.m. or 7 to 11 p.m. More information about reclaimed water can be found at www.stpete.org/Reclaimed.

Q: I have confirmed that St. Pete's rules apply to me. On which days & times am I allowed to water?

A: Allowable watering times are 5 to 9 a.m. or 7 to 11 p.m. Properties less than one acre in size may use only one of these time slots, if needed. Properties one acre or larger may use both time slots, if necessary. Your day depends on the last number of your address. See figure below.

Even Number Address	Odd Number or No Address
Saturday ONLY	Sunday ONLY



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Q: Why is my watering day different than someone in the County?

A: Each water utility selects water days based on their water supply conditions. The City's water supply and distribution system is more than adequate to meet customer demand. The City selected the weekend days to alleviate any customer hardship with time clock scheduling when once a week watering is mandated – just remove one of the scheduled days.

Q: What do I do if I am not a St. Petersburg water customer, or am not within city limits?

A: Visit the SWFWMD website WaterMatters.org/Restrictions, call the SWFWMD Hotline at 1-800-848-0499 or email Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org to find which restrictions apply.

Q: What does “Wasteful and Unnecessary Water Use” mean?

A: The prohibited uses include allowing water to be dispersed without any practical purpose, using water in a grossly inefficient manner, and using water for a purpose that can be readily accomplished by other means.

Q: Can I wash my car?

A: Car washing at home (non-commercial) is only allowed on your watering day.

Q: Can I run my aesthetic fountain?

A: Aesthetic fountain use is limited to four hours a day. The hours of operation can be selected by the owner but must be posted. Exemptions include koi ponds, small fountains 100 gallons or less, interactive commercial/institutional recreation areas and other incidental uses.

Q: Where do I go for more information?

A: St. Petersburg's Dedicated Website: www.stpete.org/WaterRestrictions
St. Petersburg's Water Watch Telephone Information Line: 727-892-5300.
SWFWMD Hotline: 1-800-848-0499 or 1-800-836-0797 ext.2298
SWFWMD Website: www.watermatters.org

Sensible Sprinkling Program

Receive a FREE Sprinkler System Checkup and Rain Sensor Installation!

Qualified water customers with working in-ground sprinkler systems using potable, reclaimed, or well water can receive a FREE CHECK-UP with site-specific recommendations, a rain sensor installation and conservation information. For an application and guidelines please call 727-892-5611 or email SensibleSprinkling@stpete.org. A downloadable, fillable application is available at www.stpete.org/programs

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