

City of San José Water Use Restrictions

Applicable to all San José residents and businesses

City of San José Potable Water Use Restrictions* (applies only to potable water)	
Level 1: Shortage Less than 10% In effect at all times	No irrigating landscapes between 10 am and 8 pm, unless using a bucket, hand-carried container, or a hose with a shut-off nozzle.
	Sprinklers cannot run more than 15 minutes per station per day.
	No excessive water runoff is allowed.
	Leaking or broken water pipes, irrigation systems, and faucets must have repairs initiated within five working days and fixed as soon as possible.
	No cleaning of structures or paved surfaces with a hose without a positive shut-off nozzle.
	No cleaning of vehicles with a hose without a positive shut-off nozzle.
	Commercial car washes must use water recycling equipment, a bucket and hand-washing, or a hose with positive shut-off nozzle.
	No serving water in food service establishments unless requested by the customer.
	Restaurants that use pre-rinse spray valves must use ones that are low flow.
	Hotels/motels must provide guests the option (written notice) to decline daily linen washing.
	Potable water cannot be used for building or construction purposes without written exception by the City.
	Water cannot be used from a hydrant without prior City approval.
	Potable water cannot be used for irrigation purposes where a recycled water service is currently plumbed to the site.
Level 2: Shortage of 10% - 20%	Council may, by adoption of a resolution declaring a water shortage, specify the number of days per week, not to exceed four, that irrigation will be allowed.
Level 3: Shortage of 20% - 30%	No filling/re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water unless to sustain aquatic life of significant value.**
	Filling of non-recirculating/misting decorative fountains with potable water is prohibited.**
	No potable water may be used to clean any exterior paved or hard-surfaced area, or the exterior of any building or structure, unless used with a bucket.**
Level 4: Shortage of 30% - 40%	No washing of vehicles, except at a commercial car washing facility that utilizes a re-circulating water system to capture or reuse water.**
	No new outdoor landscaping or plantings shall be installed between the months of May through October in an area with an overhead irrigation system.
	No initial filling or refilling residential swimming pools or outdoor spas more than one foot.
Level 5: Shortage of 40% - 50%	Public use of water from hydrants is prohibited.
	Filling of any swimming pool, fountain, or spa is prohibited.
Level 6: Shortage of > 50%	Leaks, broken water pipes, irrigation systems, and faucets must be addressed within 48 hours and repaired as soon as possible.
	Council may adopt additional restrictions, including: no landscape irrigation allowed; watering of public benefit facilities and recreational landscape is subject to restriction; customers must repair leaks within 24 hours; enforceable mandatory water budget program.

Some restrictions include exclusions/exemptions; refer to applicable Municipal Code section for more details.

** This restriction goes into effect upon Council declaration of 25% water shortage.

Other Water Use Restrictions	
State Water Board Restrictions In effect at all times	No watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff.
	No washing down sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes.
	No watering outdoor landscapes during or up to 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
	No operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a re-circulating system.
	No washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
	No irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

San José Water Company Restrictions	In addition to the City and State rules above, customers of San Jose Water Company may be subject to additional rules. For more information, visit www.sjwater.com
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Great Oaks Water Company Restrictions	In addition to the City and State rules above, customers of Great Oaks Company may be subject to additional rules. For more information, visit www.greatoakswater.com
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San José Municipal Water System Restrictions	San José Municipal Water System customers are not subject to additional rules.
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