

Level 1 Drought Declaration – Water Conservation Advisory

Updated: April 27, 2026

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has declared a statewide Drought Response Level 1 due to ongoing dry conditions across Georgia. As a public water system, Houston County Water is required to inform customers about current drought conditions and encourage voluntary water conservation.

A Level 1 drought response focuses on public awareness and voluntary conservation. At this time, there are no additional mandatory water use restrictions beyond existing state requirements.

What This Means for Customers

Although water service remains reliable, extended dry conditions can place stress on water supplies. Customers are encouraged to take simple, proactive steps to conserve water and help protect local water resources.

Helpful water conservation practices include:

- Checking for and repairing leaks indoors and outdoors
- Turning off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing dishes
- Running dishwashers and washing machines only when full
- Watering lawns and landscapes only when necessary and adjusting sprinklers to avoid watering pavement

Outdoor Watering Remains Allowed

Under a Level 1 Drought Response, outdoor landscape watering remains permitted between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., consistent with state law. Public water systems may not impose more restrictive watering limits unless a variance is approved by Georgia EPD.

Ongoing Monitoring

Georgia EPD continues to monitor drought conditions using rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, reservoir storage, soil moisture, and climate forecasts. Drought response levels may change if conditions worsen.

Learn More

Georgia EPD Drought Management: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drought-management>

Georgia EPD Water Conservation: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>

Houston County Water appreciates our customers' cooperation and commitment to responsible water use during this dry period.