

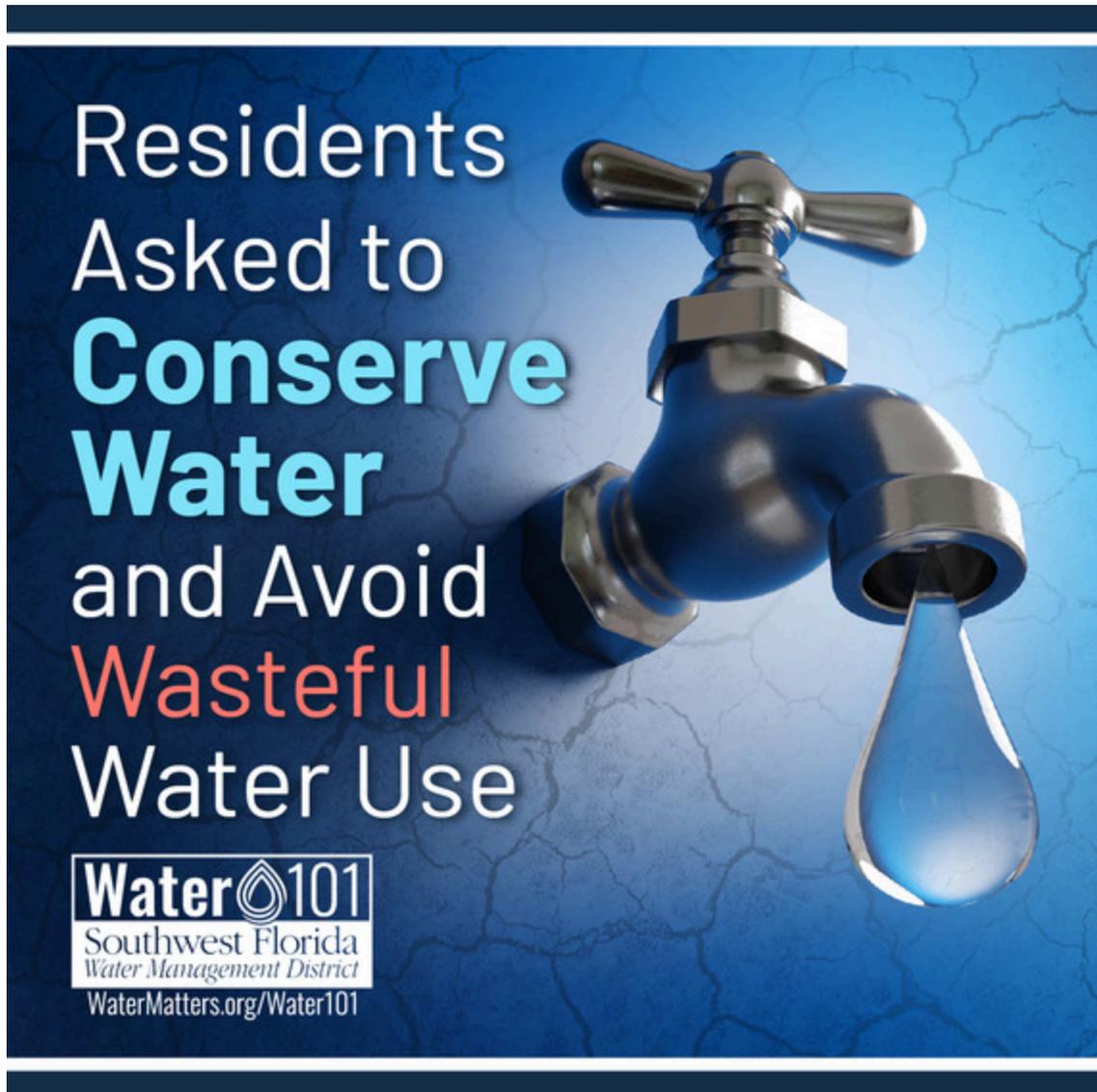
Water 101: Phase 1 Water Shortage Starts Dec. 1

From: Southwest Florida Water Management District (watermatters@public.govdelivery.com)

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 02:22 PM EST



Phase 1 Water Shortage Begins Dec. 1



The District is entering a [Phase 1 water shortage](#) from Dec. 1, 2025, through July 1, 2026. This applies to residents in all of Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter counties; portions of Charlotte, Highlands and Lake counties; the City of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County; and the portion of Gasparilla Island in Lee County.

We received lower than normal rainfall during the summer rainy season and currently have a **13-inch** rainfall deficit compared to the historical average 12-month total. As a result, water levels in the District's water resources, such as aquifers, rivers and lakes, are declining.

What it Means for You

Outdoor conservation becomes more important as we enter the Phase 1 water shortage and the dry season. The water shortage order does not change allowable watering schedules, however it does prohibit “wasteful and unnecessary” water use, such as allowing water to flow from an unattended hose.

Simple Ways to Save Water

Outdoor water use accounts for more than 50 percent of water used by households, and residents should know and follow their local watering restrictions.

Visit [WaterMatters.org/Restrictions](https://www.watermatters.org/restrictions) to view allowable lawn watering schedules, including the day and time based on your address.

Homeowners also are asked to reduce their outdoor water consumption by [checking your irrigation system](#) to ensure it’s working properly. This means testing and repairing broken pipes and leaks and fixing damaged or tilted sprinkler heads.

Don’t forget to check your irrigation timer to ensure the settings are correct and the rain sensor is working properly in accordance with state law.

Thank You for Helping Protect Our Water

Together, we can make a meaningful impact this dry season. Throughout the season, we will share easy tips from our Water 101 campaign, or you can visit our [Water 101 website](#) for more resources and conservation tips.

The More You Know: It's time to thaw those turkeys!

**SAVE WATER,
Thaw That Turkey.**

Water 101
Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WaterMatters.org/Water101

20-24 lbs FRIDAY Before Thanksgiving	16-19 lbs SATURDAY Before Thanksgiving
12-15 lbs SUNDAY Before Thanksgiving	4-11 lbs MONDAY Before Thanksgiving

The infographic features a vertical orange banner on the left with the text 'SAVE WATER, Thaw That Turkey.' and the 'Water 101' logo. To the right, four blue boxes on a dark wood background provide thawing instructions for different turkey weights: 20-24 lbs (Friday), 16-19 lbs (Saturday), 12-15 lbs (Sunday), and 4-11 lbs (Monday). Each box includes a white turkey icon. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a turkey with pumpkins and a Thanksgiving meal.

It's almost time to thaw those turkeys. One of the easiest ways to save water before Thanksgiving is to thaw your bird in the refrigerator instead of under running water. Start early to give it enough time.

Larger turkeys need several days to thaw, while smaller ones can be moved to the fridge closer to the holiday. Planning ahead helps you prepare a safe and delicious meal while protecting our shared water supply.

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