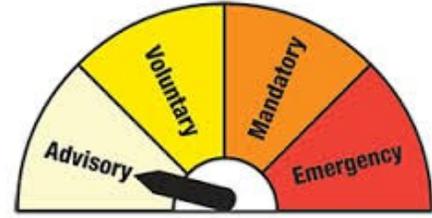


# WATER ADVISORY STAGE TIPS



## STAGES OF RENTON AND PUGET SOUND AREA SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN



Here are great tips for residents and businesses to carefully manage their water use. These tips focus on adopting efficient practices and upgrading inefficient fixtures and equipment. For more information visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or call 206-684-SAVE (7283).

### PRACTICES-What you can do

### PURCHASES-If you are buying

#### Indoors Residential



- **Fix Leaks:** Fix obvious leaks such as at faucets. Also, check your toilets for silent leaks. Put several drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. After 10 minutes, if you have color in the toilet bowl, you have a flapper leak. More info at: [savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos)
- **Wash Full Loads:** Wait until your clotheswasher and dishwasher are full before starting. More info at: [savingwater.org/Indoors/WashingClothes](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/WashingClothes)
- **Turn Off Tap:** Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- **Minimize Garbage Disposal:** Put food waste in your compost bin, rather than using your garbage disposal. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/Dishwashers](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/Dishwashers)
- **Don't Pre-Rinse Dishes:** Don't pre-rinse dishes unless heavily soiled. Most new dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/Dishwashers](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/Dishwashers)

- **Efficient Toilets:** If buying a new toilet, look for a WaterSense or Premium WaterSense model, which use far less water than older models. Toilets are the largest water users in homes. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/Toilets](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/Toilets)
- **Efficient Clotheswashers:** If buying, select a water-efficient model. Clotheswashers are the second largest water users in homes. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/WashingClothes](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/WashingClothes)
- **Efficient Showerheads:** Replace older showerheads with WaterSense models, which use far less water. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/ShowersBaths](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/ShowersBaths)
- **Efficient Faucets:** Replace older bathroom faucet aerators with WaterSense models, which use far less water. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/Faucets](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/Faucets)

#### Outdoors



- **Water Early or Late:** Water before 8am or after 7pm, to reduce evaporation.
- **Water Deeply, But Infrequently:** It's better to have one or two deep waterings, rather than several shallow waterings. More info: [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/HowOftenHowMuch](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/HowOftenHowMuch)
- **Fix Leaks:** Fix obvious leaks such as at hose bibs, spray heads, valves, and broken pipes. [savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos)
- **Wash Vehicles Wisely:** Wash your vehicle(s) at locations that recycle the water.
- **Use a Broom Not Hose:** Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways, and patios.
- **Get Water to the Roots:** Use soaker hoses, drip irrigation, or watering wands to deliver water where it's needed. More info [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/CompareSystems](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/CompareSystems)
- **Tune Up Automatic Systems:** Do an efficiency tune up of your automatic irrigation system such as fixing overspray onto sidewalks and ensuring sprinkler heads reach adjacent sprinkler heads. More info: [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/AutomaticSystems/MaintainYourSystem](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/AutomaticSystems/MaintainYourSystem)
- **Mow High:** Set your lawn mower blade to cut grass 2 inches high, which reduces evaporation. More info: [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/LawnCare](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/LawnCare)
- **Water Young Trees Efficiently:** Water young trees efficiently using a water bag. Trees planted 5 or fewer years ago need 15-20 gallons of water twice a week to survive. More info: [seattle.gov/trees/youngtreecare](http://seattle.gov/trees/youngtreecare)
- **Hose Shut-Offs:** Never leave hose running; always use a shut-off nozzle.
- **Pool & Hot Tub Covers:** Use covers on swimming pools and hot tubs when not in use to reduce evaporation.

- **2 Inches of Mulch:** Put 2 inches of mulch on planting beds and around trees, which reduces evaporation. Keep the mulch a hands-width away from the trunk. More info: [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/SoilMulchCompostFertilizers/HowtoUseCompostMulch](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/SoilMulchCompostFertilizers/HowtoUseCompostMulch)
- **Upgrade Automatic Systems:** Consider efficiency upgrades to your automatic irrigation system such as weather-based or soil-based controllers. More info: [savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/AutomaticSystems/FinancialTechnicalAssistance](http://savingwater.org/LawnGarden/WateringIrrigation/AutomaticSystems/FinancialTechnicalAssistance)

Single Family • Multifamily  
Commercial • Industrial • Institutional



**REBATES AVAILABLE**  
[Savingwater.org/Rebates](http://Savingwater.org/Rebates)

#### Indoors Businesses



- **Fix Leaks:** Fix obvious leaks such as at faucets. Also, check your tank toilets for silent leaks. Put several drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. After 10 minutes, if you have color in the toilet bowl, you have a flapper leak. More [savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/FixingLeaks/FixLeakVideos)
- **Thaw in Fridge:** Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator, rather than under running water.
- **Towels On Request:** Provide new towels only on request.
- **Check Cooling Towers:** Closely monitor cooling tower operations for overflow and excessive blowdown, and consider ways to lower air conditioning load.
- **Equipment Not in Use:** Turn off water-using equipment when not in use, including dishwashers, garbage disposals, and food troughs.
- **Employee Awareness:** Increase employee awareness about using water wisely and encourage their suggestions.

- **Efficient Toilets/Urinals:** If buying a new toilet or urinal, look for a WaterSense or Premium WaterSense model, which use far less water than older models. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/Toilets](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/Toilets)
- **Commercial Kitchen Equipment:** Replace older food steamers, dishwashers, and water-cooled ice machines with newer, more efficient models. More info: [savingwater.org/Businesses/FoodHospitality](http://savingwater.org/Businesses/FoodHospitality)
- **Efficient Showerheads:** Replace older showerheads with WaterSense models, which use far less water. More info: [savingwater.org/Indoors/ShowersBaths](http://savingwater.org/Indoors/ShowersBaths)
- **Efficient Faucets:** Replace older bathroom faucet aerators with newer, more-efficient models that use 0.5/1.0 gallon per minute or less.
- **Other Water-Using Equipment:** Consider upgrading any other water-using equipment to models that are more efficient.
- **Reuse Process Water:** Water used in industrial and manufacturing processes should be reused as often as possible.