

# Water Conservation and Drought Emergency Information

## The City of Ingleside on the Bay is currently under Stage 3 Water Restrictions

Effective December 30, 2024

**Stage 1** – Mild Water Shortage Watch: Initiated when combined lake levels of the Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi system (CCR/LCC system) fall below 40% of capacity. Stage 1 restrictions are not lifted until combined lake levels return to at least 50%.

**Stage 2** - Moderate Shortage Condition: Additional restrictions are initiated when lake levels fall below 30% and remain in effect until combined lakes return to at least 40%.

**Stage 3** – Critical Water Shortage Condition: Stage 3 is initiated if combined water storage levels decline below 20%. Additional restrictions on certain non-essential water uses will remain in effect until levels increase to above 30%. Stage 2 then becomes operative.

**Stage 4** – Emergency Water Shortage Condition: Stage 4 could be declared by our supplier, San Patricio Municipal Water District (SPMWD), in the event of an extreme water system production or transmission system failure.

### Stage 3 Restrictions are as Follows:

- Mandatory Compliance
- All landscape watering prohibited
- No filling of new and existing pools \*(NOT RECOMMENDED)
- No washing of cars at home
- All fountains shall operate only to maintain equipment
- Washing of Impervious Surfaces is prohibited unless for health and safety reasons

The Drought Contingency Plan does not apply to irrigation systems using private water wells or aerobic septic systems; however, properties using such systems must post a prominent, legible sign stating “Water Well”. It is a separate violation to display a sign which falsely claims the water used to be from another source.

Please see the [City's Drought Contingency and Emergency Water Plan](#) for additional details on triggers, targets, authorized or prohibited uses, and penalties.

Triggers under the regional Drought Contingency Plan are tied to the total amount of water in storage in Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi (CCR/LCC) combined. These are now referred to as Reservoir System Stages.

Ingleside on the Bay buys treated water from the San Patricio Municipal Water District (SPMWD) which, in turn, buys raw water from the City of Corpus Christi. The City's contract with SPMWD requires the City to follow SPMWD's plan.

Customers with questions are encouraged to contact the Public Works Department at (361) 776-5451

View the [current levels in the "Lake Level" graphic](#) on the SPMWD page.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Why are we entering Stage 3?

**Combined reservoir levels are below 20% capacity. Current weather forecasts predict above-normal temperatures and below-normal rainfall, which will impact our water supply.**

#### 1. Does Drought Status Stage 3 mean water restrictions?

Yes, Stage 3 means we need to pause outdoor water use to protect our water supply. This includes temporarily stopping lawn watering, at-home car washing, and operating decorative fountains. Indoor water use like showering, laundry, and dishes can continue as normal.

#### 2. Who is affected by Stage 3 water restrictions?

Restrictions apply to all City of Ingleside on the Bay water customers, including homeowners, apartment buildings, city facilities, commercial businesses, and industry.

#### 3. Will I be billed a surcharge on my water bill?

No. There are no active surcharges for water usage.

#### 4. Can I water my foundation?

Yes. Foundation watering to maintain structural integrity is permitted only on designated watering days. You must use a 5-gallon bucket or smaller, a hand-held hose with a shut-off nozzle, or a drip irrigation system.

#### 5. Can I fill my pool?

Yes, filling pools is permitted at this time to maintain equipment operations. Residents are encouraged to cover pools as often as possible to prevent evaporation.

**6. What if I have a water well or an aerobic septic system?**

Irrigation with water wells or aerobic septic systems is exempt from water restrictions.

**7. Can I wash my boat?**

Washing boats with soap and detergents at home is not permitted. The rinsing of boats and flushing of boat motors is permitted at a commercial establishment or using water from one's residence conservatively. Rinsing boats and motors should be done in a manner that does not waste water.

**8. What is grey water, and can I use it?**

Grey water is water that has already been used, typically produced from washing machines, bathtubs, or sinks. It is not suitable for drinking. There are no restrictions on the use of grey water.

**9. Can I water my potted plants?**

Outdoor potted plants are not considered landscaped areas and can be watered. Landscaped areas are not allowed to be watered.

**10. Can I water my food garden?**

Hand watering is allowed for gardens used to grow vegetables and herbs.

**11. Do industrial customers have to follow Stage 3 water restrictions?**

Yes. Industrial and commercial businesses must follow the same guidelines as residents.

**12. What if the City of Ingleside on the Bay is not my water provider?**

Please contact your water provider for Stage 3 watering updates.

**13. Can I fill my Koi Pond?**

Yes, however, residents are encouraged to conserve water as much as possible.

**14. Can I rinse my rods and fishing gear?**

Yes, however, residents are encouraged to conserve water as much as possible.

**15. Can my business still operate normally during Stage 3?**

Yes, most indoor business operations can continue as normal. Stage 3 primarily affects outdoor water use.

**16. How does stage 3 affect my commercial landscaping?**

All landscape irrigation must be paused. Consider posting signs to inform customers about brown grass due to drought conditions.