



TOWN OF ALTO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

P. O. BOX 215
ALTO, GA 30510

COUNCIL | WATER BILLING | PROPERTY TAXES | LICENSES | PERMITS

Attention All Alto Water Customers:

In response to the GA EPD declaration of a Drought Response Level 1 below please immediately begin to put the following policies in place as good stewards for our water resources:

- Regularly check for, and repair, leaks inside and outside your home.
- Don't leave the tap running. When shaving, brushing your teeth, washing your face, or food, turn off the tap.
- Only water your landscape when necessary and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street. In addition to this the following parameters are effective now:
 - **General landscape watering may be done between 4pm and 10 am each day, and the following activities may be done at any time of day:**
 - Irrigation of personal food gardens may be done at any time of day;
 - Irrigation of new and replanted plants, seeds, or turf may be done at any time of day for 30 days after installation;
 - Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses may be done at any time of day; and
 - Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be done at any time of day.

APRIL 27, 2026

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Declares Drought Response Level 1

On April 27, 2026, after consideration of the drought severity and the water resource impacts, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) declared a state-wide Drought Response Level 1 for public water systems using surface water and/or groundwater. EPD has been closely monitoring drought conditions in Georgia for months, and on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, EPD held conference calls with public water systems to discuss current water supply and EPD's consideration of issuing a Level 1 drought response. Following the conference calls, the public water systems had three days to submit any additional feedback before EPD could proceed with a drought response declaration.

As a result of the Level 1 Drought Response, public water systems must implement a public information campaign including, at a minimum, notice regarding drought conditions and drought-specific announcements in one or more of the following ways: newspaper or online ads, bill inserts, social media, and notices in public libraries. This public information campaign is designed to help citizens better understand drought, its impact on water supplies, and the need for water conservation.

Outdoor water use between the hours of 4 PM and 10 A.M. is still allowable and unaffected by a Drought Response Level 1. Public water systems may not impose restrictions on outdoor watering that are different from state requirements unless they obtain a variance from EPD.

As required by state law and rules, EPD determines whether specific environmental conditions warrant a drought response declaration based upon the severity of drought conditions and the impacts to water supply. One tool used to monitor and inform drought conditions is the U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Factors that may potentially impact water supply include precipitation, stream flows, groundwater levels, reservoir levels, short-term climate predictions, and soil moisture. EPD monitors and produces reports on these conditions on a regular basis. These reports are published on the EPD website, along with information regarding drought indicators, current variances, and EPD actions regarding drought: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drought-management>. More information on water conservation is available at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.