

PINERY PIPELINE MAY 2026

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 13th and Wednesday, June 17th.



From your Board of Directors

Summer is nearly here, and the District is heading into what looks to be one of the most challenging water years in recent memory. We want to share where things stand, what we are asking our customers, and why.

Pinery has moved to Drought Stage 3, effective May 1.

This is the first time the District has reached Stage 3, and we did not arrive here lightly. A nearly snowless winter, paired with sustained above-average temperatures, has left the South Platte basin badly depleted. Even our most senior water rights have already been restricted this spring, which is virtually unheard of this early in the season. While the District does not depend directly on mountain runoff, we do get most of our water from Cherry Creek, which is part of the larger South Platte basin. When the basin is short on water, our water rights may be impacted. And while the recent rain has helped at the margins, it has not come close to offsetting the winter shortfall.

In Stage 3 the District targets a 20 percent reduction in water use across every customer class, including our three golf courses, who are working with us closely to meet that target. Restrictions effective May 1 include:

- Mandatory outdoor watering only on assigned days and during cooler hours of the day. The full schedule is posted at pinerywater.com and is also available from the District office.
- A pause on the installation of new sod, and a suspension of the billing adjustments normally offered for new landscaping.
- A prohibition on filling private swimming pools.

District staff will be actively monitoring leaks and unusual usage that could signal a problem. Customers who continue to exceed restrictions after a warning may be subject to fines, but our first goal is always to help bring usage into compliance, not to penalize.

A few things to consider to help reduce usage or to get more out of the water you do use:

- Consider the District's turf replacement program that helps cover the cost of replacing turf with low-water use material.
- The District offers free irrigation audits. A short visit can often identify simple changes that cut outdoor use noticeably without harming your landscape.
- Check for leaks. A running toilet or a broken sprinkler head can quietly waste a remarkable amount of water.
- Water early or late, never in the heat of the day, when most of it evaporates before it reaches roots.

Staff and the Board will continue to monitor conditions closely and will adjust restrictions as the situation warrants, in either direction. Current projections for the next several months unfortunately suggest more



of the same, but we remain hopeful that conditions will improve. If you have questions, please contact the District office or attend one of our monthly Board meetings. Thank you for your help in conserving water this irrigation season.

Josh Connors, Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District

HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I PUT ON MY LAWN?

Colorado lawns typically require about 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week, including rainfall, to maintain a healthy, green appearance. However, during very dry or hot conditions, grass enters dormancy, appearing brown or golden. The grass blades may die, but as long as the crown of the grass plant (located at the soil surface) remains alive, the grass is able to recover once conditions improve. Watering can be reduced to as little as 1 inch of water *per month* to keep the crown alive.

Under normal conditions, we recommend watering two days per week, approximately 20–30 minutes per zone for pop-up sprinkler heads or 40–50 minutes per zone for rotor heads each of those days. With the drought conditions that we are experiencing this year, consider cutting those times in half to apply less water. If your grass, though dormant and golden, is still alive at the soil surface, you could try reducing the time further, down to 5-8 minutes for sprinkler heads or 10-12 minutes for rotor heads per watering day.

For best results in any weather conditions, we recommend using the “cycle and soak” method. Rather than running your sprinklers for one long session—which can lead to runoff and wasted water—break your watering time into shorter cycles with pauses in between. For example, instead of watering for 10–15 minutes all at once, try three cycles of 3–5 minutes each, spaced about an hour apart. This approach allows the soil to absorb moisture more effectively and reduces water waste. Remember that watering is most efficient in the cool nighttime hours.

In general, lawns in Colorado benefit from deep, infrequent watering. This encourages deeper root growth, helping your lawn become more resilient and better able to withstand hot, dry conditions.

2026 WATERING SCHEDULE

PINERY RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
Effective May 1st, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVEN Numbered Addresses	ODD Numbered Addresses	Commercial and Large Irrigators	EVEN Numbered Addresses	ODD Numbered Addresses	No WATERING	Commercial and Large Irrigators

Hand Watering of Trees, Shrubs, and Potted Plants Allowed Any Day
No Watering (including hand watering) between 10am & 6pm



Customer Service: 303.841.2797

SUMMER WATER RESTRICTIONS

As we move into warmer months, please remember that our **mandatory** watering schedule is in effect as of May 1st to help conserve water. Please see the watering schedule to the right for full details. Thank you for doing your part to use water wisely and support our community!

WATER CONSERVATION RESOURCES

The District currently offers two programs to permanently reduce your outdoor water use. The first is the Turf Replacement Rebate Program, which is a great opportunity to conserve water while enhancing the beauty of your landscape. Residential customers may qualify for a rebate of \$5 per square foot—up to \$2,000 total—by removing water-intensive grass and replacing it with Colorado-friendly, low-water landscaping. The second program, called *Slow the Flow*, provides free sprinkler system audits through Resource Central. Gain knowledge about your system, get a customized watering schedule, and learn ways to improve efficiency and reduce water waste. Both programs have limited spots and funding, so early application is encouraged. For full details and to apply, visit [**Pinery Water-Incentives-and-Rebates.**](#)

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,
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