

We understand that a number of our residents are experiencing lower water pressure, particularly in the Ward 6 area. The following provides details of the factors contributing to this challenge, as well as insight of how the City is addressing the water demands currently and long-term. Contextually, summer months render lower water demand as well as increase rain, which also minimizes the use of water for irrigation purposes. This makes it the ideal time to take several existing wells offline for rehabilitation to ensure optimum performance. However, 2021 was an anomaly. **The City experienced an unprecedented population growth, largely due to the COVID pandemic, with more residents staying through the summer months. These factors occurred simultaneously,** caused a substantial increase in water demand.

We are on-track to complete at least **two new water wells by mid-2022**, which will significantly change the experience our residents have with water pressure. Additionally, we have prioritized the rehabilitation of existing wells to bring those back online quickly; thus, allowing higher water flow in the distribution system.

Our plants currently distribute water between 42-45 psi. We intend to increase this number **gradually every couple of weeks as wells are rehabilitated** and returned to service. Nonetheless, a **small percentage of residents may still experience lower water pressure during peak hours, particularly multi-story buildings that are not equipped with properly sized booster pumps.** We encourage residents to consult with their property managers to ensure that their respective building is furnished adequately, **as every floor generally loses at least 4 psi with each floor being 10 feet in height.** [Please review the attached Water Pressure Guide, which outlines some of the most common factors impacting water flow in your home and what you can do.](#)

Our Timeline:

Rehabilitation of two wells
DECEMBER 2021

Rehabilitation of four wells
JANUARY 2022

Completion of one new well
JUNE 2022

Completion of additional wells
2022

What you can expect:

Add more water flow to distribution system, which will result in stronger water pressure for most residents.

Enable the return to normal, peak operating psi levels, resulting in stronger water pressure citywide.

Fully return to typical operating conditions of 50-52 psi across the water delivery system.

The City will achieve resilience and flexibility to meet future water demand needs, including taking wells on and off service for rehabilitation purposes.

These benchmark estimates are conservative, as we may realize results sooner barring unforeseen circumstances.

Please register for our monthly progress updates by emailing: CityPIO@cityftmyers.com



1) New water tank under construction, to be completed mid-2022.

2) The City of Fort Myers is equipped with 3 high service pumps; one is always in use, which delivers water to the distribution system.



2)



3)

3) City of Fort Myers water plant.



CITY OF FORT MYERS

Guide to Support

Water Pressure

The City of Fort Myers currently operates and maintains 13 wells in order to support the water needs of residents across all wards. In 2022, the City will complete construction of at least two additional wells as part of the water supply program expansion. Summer months are generally off-peak for water demand; therefore, the City conducts rehabilitation of existing wells during this time to ensure adequate operation. Generally, the City's plants provide distribution pressure between 42-45 psi during such times of the year.

During non-rehabilitation periods, City plants provide water between 50-52 psi. **Please consider the following recommendations to improve water pressure at your home:**

REPLACE

Cartridges and Filters

Water purification and dichlorination systems are very popular nowadays; but did you know that such items may impact water pressure? Check under-sink strainers, as well as the cartridges of point-of-use filtration and dichlorination units regularly to ensure that contaminants are not blocking water from flowing seamlessly.

Depending on the level of use, filters and cartridges should be replaced or cleaned every three to six months. Additionally, some water filtration systems cannot handle higher water pressure and include a pressure limiting valve to intentionally slow down water pressure.

INSPECT

Backflow Prevention Systems

Residential establishments generally include a robust backflow prevention system, which normally causes the loss of 8-10 psi across the assembly when functioning properly. However, when a system is not inspected and recertified each year by a professional, it may become inefficient and result in excessive psi loss. Management companies should consult with an expert to ensure that the assembly is not partially blocked by debris and that a zone is not stuck in an open or close position, for example.

MAINTAIN

Water Treatment Systems

A properly installed and maintained water softener system may deliver the ideal water quality in your home, but it's important to backwash the system periodically and replace the filter to prevent particles from accumulating over time. While many systems could last 10-15 years when properly maintained, inadequate care will cause them to fail and interfere with water flow. Refer to the manufacturer's care instructions to optimize the lifespan of your unit, thus allowing for better water flow throughout the entire home.

REMOVE

Water Restrictors

Most water-related hardware, such as faucets and showerheads, are equipped with water flow restrictors to reduce usage. However, most homeowners are not aware that such items are in place. Water restrictors are generally a flat plastic insert in the shape of a circle, placed at the final point of water delivery on a faucet or showerhead. A plumber can easily remove water restrictors, enabling stronger water flow in that particular location.



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Questions?

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