

FREQUENT QUESTIONS ABOUT WATERING SCHEDULE CHANGES

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What are my watering days?

For single family homes (including duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes), watering days are determined by street address

- Odd numbered addresses: Wednesday and/or Saturday
- Even numbered addresses: Thursday and/or Sunday

For Commercial and Multifamily customers (including common areas of condominiums or homeowners' associations):

- Tuesday and/or Friday

Are the watering days in effect year round?

For commercial and multi-family customers, the answer is yes. For residential customers, the watering days are only mandatory from May 1st through September 30th.

When does this take effect?

The watering schedule changes take effect May 1

What time of day can I water?

If you are watering with an automatic irrigation system, you may water before 10 am or after 7 pm. This applies to all customers and is in effect year round.

If you are watering with a hose-end sprinkler, from May 1 to September 30 you may water before 10 am and after 7 pm on your designated watering days. There are no time of day restrictions for hose-end sprinklers during the rest of the year.

What about watering with a hand-held hose?

You can water with a hand-held hose or bucket any time of day and any day of the week.

If I see water being wasted or a property in violation of the watering schedule, what should I do?

The best thing to do if you wish to report a violation or any water waste or leak is to e-mail the District at debbiegernes@wcid17.org or leslie@wcid17.org or call 266-1111 ext. 10. For a leak after hours, call the emergency pager at 397-9061. Please provide us with as much information as you can (address, time, date, location).

What are the potential consequences of violating the watering schedule?

We realize that it will take some time to become accustomed to the new schedule. Sometimes a customer may not even have been aware of the schedule and can make corrections immediately. A customer may have been out of town on business or on vacation, or there may be any number of reasons they could not comply. The District wants first to encourage people to get on the schedule and get their lawns and landscapes accustomed to a twice a week watering. Customers who are watering incorrectly will be reminded about the schedule and asked to comply. Customers who refuse to comply after several requests or who cause serious water waste may be fined.

Why are we mandating watering restrictions when the lake is full and they are predicting a wet Spring?

The watering rules are designed to last for many years, regardless of annual weather variations. By setting a watering schedule that is easy to follow and to remember, we will be helping our customers use their water efficiently. Twice a week is more than enough to maintain healthy, green landscapes and build strong root systems that can withstand drought. It is a good baseline to work from. If conditions change for the worse, and stage two or three trigger conditions are reached, additional restrictions may be imposed.

How will this save water? Twice a week offers more watering days than the old five-day schedule?

The new schedule will save water by being easier to remember and easier to follow. In the City of Austin, a study found that only 12% of the properties they audited were following the five-day schedule, and over 60% were watering more than twice a week. Getting those customers to water just twice a week will result in large savings. In addition, some customers may find that their landscapes will do well on just once a week watering.

Does the watering ordinance prohibit people from washing their cars or sidewalks or other hard surfaces?

No, not in stage one. The watering schedule only restricts car washing or washing down sidewalks or other hard surfaces if increased watering restrictions (stage two or above) become necessary. The District does recommend that you use a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk rather than using water, and if you are washing your car, make sure you have a nozzle on the end of your hose that allows you to easily shut off the water when not being used.

I'm putting in a new landscape. Do these restrictions apply to me?

Customers who are installing new grass or landscapes may apply for a temporary variance from the watering restrictions by phone or e-mail to the District at least one day prior to installation. Variances will not be granted for seasonal color beds or overseeding.

What if I can't water my entire property in only two days per week?

Large properties where the irrigation system is incapable of covering the property within the mandatory watering schedule may also apply for a variance. Variance approvals can typically be issued within five business days.

What other situations are eligible for variances?

Customers who have installed special water conserving irrigation control systems such as those with weather station connections or moisture sensors may be granted permanent variances to allow these systems to function as designed and water on any day.

Please note that variances will not be granted for overseeding lawns, conflicts with trash pickup, or lawn maintenance schedules.