

To Conserve Water and  
Save Money \$\$\$ .....

## KNOW YOUR DAYS / KNOW YOUR USAGE

Water District 17 will be starting two (2) times per week summer mandatory outdoor watering schedule on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Know your designated watering days and times and follow the schedule to limit your consumption and save money.

FOR ALL CUSTOMERS: NO IRRIGATION ALLOWED BETWEEN 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### CUSTOMERS LIMITED TO 2 DAYS PER WEEK

**Residential: May 1 – September 30**

**Commercial: Year Round**

### AUTOMATED IRRIGATION WATERING SCHEDULE

*Automated: Irrigation by means of a system controlled by a timer or other remote controller.*

Allowed to water BEFORE 10:00 a.m. and/or AFTER 7:00 p.m. on your designated days

Your days based on address ending number:

Monday & Thursday	0, 1, 2, 3 (Res)
Tuesday & Friday	4, 5, 6 (Res) and Commercial / HOAs
Wednesday & Saturday	7, 8, 9 (Res)
Sunday	no automated systems allowed

Note: Customers that utilize automated systems may **NOT** water the same landscape areas using hose end sprinklers; only hand held hose if additional water is required.

### HOSE END SPRINKLER – ANY DAY

*Hose end sprinkler: Garden hose equipped with a removable portable sprinkler which is moved from place to place by hand and turned on and off by hand.*

**Note: Only for Customers who do not have automated irrigation systems**

**Allowed any day, no watering between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

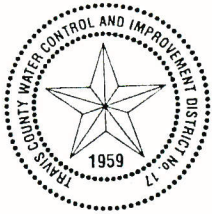
#### Notes:

- \* Watering with HAND HELD hose, soaker hose, bubbler, drip irrigation or watering can of 5-gallons and less is allowed any day, any time
- \* Climate driven irrigation controllers should be turned on
- \* No other water uses are restricted under this Stage (Car washing, pool refills, use of outdoor fountains, etc – allowed)
- \* Variances may be granted under this Stage

## Water Smart Tips for Your Lawn

Follow these simple tips to help us get to the 10% watering decrease as you enjoy your lawn.

- 1 Water in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- 2 Adjust your lawn mower up at least one notch. A taller lawn holds moisture better.
- 3 Keep grass nourished with fertilizer so it is better able to recover drought stress.
- 4 Keep weeds out of your green spaces. Weeds are notorious for stealing water from other plants, so if you'll keep their population in check, you won't have to water as often.
- 5 Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- 6 Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions.
- 7 Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop or move the sprinkler.
- 8 Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- 9 Recognize signs of dry grass. Avoid watering until you can see footprints left in the lawn as you walk across it.
- 10 Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks periodically.
- 11 Install a rain sensor on your irrigation system so it won't run when it's raining.
- 12 Use a licensed irrigator annually to check your sprinkler system for leaks and keep sprinkler heads in good shape.
- 13 Retro-fit your existing irrigation system with new water saving technology like bubblers, low-angle or other water conservation options.



## TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 17

3812 ECK LANE • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78734  
PHONE (512) 266-1111 • FAX (512) 266-2790

### STAGE 3 DROUGHT CONDITIONS

#### ONE (1) DAY, ONE TIME BLOCK PER WEEK SCHEDULE OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND HOA - EFFECTIVE JUNE 10, 2013

The level of Lake Travis has now fallen below 629 ft msl and the combined water storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan is now at Stage 3 trigger point. Stage 3 Drought conditions are now in effect. Water District 17 customers are now required to go to a one (1) day per week outdoor watering schedule until conditions improve sufficiently.

#### RESTRICTED WATERING SCHEDULE AUTOMATED IRRIGATION

*Automated irrigation: Irrigation by means of a system controlled by a timer or other remote controller.*

No automated irrigation may be done after 10:00 a.m. any day. Please adjust your irrigation controllers to comply with the new schedule.

12:01 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. only on your one day

Addresses ending:

Monday	1, 3
Tuesday	2, 4
Wednesday	5, 7
Thursday	6, 8
Friday	9, 0
Saturday	All Commercial & HOAs

Note: Customers that utilize automated systems may NOT water the same landscape areas using hose end sprinklers; only hand held hose if additional water is required.

#### RESTRICTED WATERING SCHEDULE HOSE END SPRINKLER

*Hose end sprinkler: Garden hose equipped with a removable portable sprinkler which is moved from place to place by hand and turned on and off by hand.* Note: For Customers who do not have automated irrigation systems

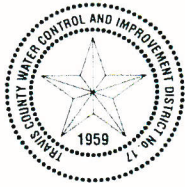
Water only ten (10) hours per day using the times of 12:01 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and/or 7:00 p.m. - midnight

**Sunday**      The ONLY DAY FOR Hose End Sprinkler Watering.

Restrictions:

- \* Watering with a hand held hose, soaker hose, bubbler, drip irrigation or watering can of 5-gallons and less is allowed any day, **but not between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**
- \* Climate driven irrigation controllers must be turned off.
- \* Cars and boats may each be washed **once per week ANY DAY, ANY TIME** with shutoff nozzle required.
- \* Pools may be REFILLED ANY TIME.
- \* Commercial ornamental fountains must stop.
- \* Residential ornamental fountains and water features are asked to stop voluntarily.





## TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 17

3812 Eck Lane • Austin, Texas 78734  
• Phone (512) 266-1111 • Fax (512) 266-2790

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

#### Does your Water Usage or Bill Seem Abnormally High?

Some homeowners were caught off guard by high water bills after the summer, and over the past few cycles the District billing clerks have continued to receive an increased number of customers calling with concerns regarding high water bills and questioning meter reads. Every water provider in the area is experiencing the same phenomenon.

Due to the flurry of news reports and articles in the press recently, there may be some confusion. It is good to see customers being more aware of their water usage and here is some additional information regarding WCID 17 operations which may be helpful in clearing up your questions.

#### I read in the paper that Austin was having billing and metering problems. Does that affect our area?

No, WCID 17 is not a part of the City of Austin but is a separate entity with its own metering and billing system.

#### How are meters read? Could a meter be wrong?

- Meters are read over several days in the middle of each month, usually the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, not at the end of the month. So, as stated on your bill, the bill you received at the end of October will reflect usage from mid-September to mid-October. Any changes you made to your water use patterns in the last two weeks of October **will not be reflected until** the next months' bill.
- WCID 17 **does not ever estimate** meter readings. Readings are made automatically by radio signal as the reader drives by in a District truck. The reader does not need to look at the meter dial and can get electronic readings even if the meter is buried in mud.
- A high usage bill is **unlikely a result of a meter error**. Meters are highly accurate and recording in the 95 percent to 100 percent capacity range. They have an electrical component and a mechanical component. These electrical and mechanical readings are compared annually by physically reading every meter. Meters can and do have problems; however, in virtually all cases when a meter malfunctions or shows signs of aging, the mechanical and/or electrical components slow down, read low and a malfunction is to the customer's benefit. There is no way to "speed up" a meter. Remember, a meter is a mechanical device. The dials on the register do not move unless water is flowing through the meter body. When the electronic component fails completely, no signal is sent to the electronic reader. In this case, the meter reader will physically read the mechanical register and replace the register unit. The mechanical register is still reading correctly.

#### Why is my bill so high?

- Based on recent findings after investigating customer complaints, the majority of high bills are due to irrigation use. Following the substantial rains received during the month of June in the Highland Lakes basin, the Lower Colorado River Authority lifted the mandatory one-day per week outdoor drought watering schedule allowing firm water customers to return to their normal drought plan schedules. Per



the WCID 17 Drought Contingency Plan, customers were allowed to return to Stage 1 Outdoor Watering Schedule which is a two-day per week schedule from May 1 – September 30, anytime other than 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All restrictions expired October 1, 2015 for residential customers.

- All area water providers, including WCID 17, had been on a mandatory one-day per week watering schedule, year-round, since May 1, 2012 (3 years). Many customers simply didn't realize that they were now watering twice as much or more because of the additional day and time allowed.
- After investigating complaints, checking meters and working with homeowners, WCID 17 staff has not identified any meter problems or billing errors; however, we will continue to investigate all inquiries. People are seeing higher bills due to higher water consumption most likely because of outdoor watering, or in some cases, unknown leaks.

#### **I had much higher usage than normal. Why didn't the District call me?**

After every month's meter reads, if the billing system flags an account for high usage (over 50,000 gallons in the summer) the account is reviewed for most recent usage history. If usage is within about 20 percent, no notification is made because customer usage patterns may have changed. A customer may have had company or filled a pool, for example. If usage is way off, a technician is sent out to physically check the meter, re-read it, and check for any obvious signs of a leak. If a possible leak is detected, a door hanger is left at the home and/or a call is made to the customer. **Customers are ultimately responsible for monitoring their own water use and promptly repairing leaks.**

#### **How can WCID 17 tell how my water might have been used?**

- Most WCID 17 meter electronic components can store usage patterns by hour and date for up to the past 90-days. The hourly graph is most useful because you are able to see your consumption by the exact time it flows through your meter and you will also be able to identify leaks by this information. The District technician can pull the data from your meter. The graphically displayed data can then be emailed to you. Unfortunately, because a technician must be sent out to extract the data, a trip charge must be assessed for each graph requested after the first one.

As with any electronic device, over the years a register can lose its ability to save data and must be replaced. This does not mean the current reading is inaccurate. The graph on your statement shows only total monthly usage.

- Customer's historic usage can be used to identify normal seasonal patterns and potential problems. Some higher than normal usage patterns are easily identified as a fixture left on, irrigation use, or a leak. A leak pattern and amount can be identified, but of course, **it is the responsibility of the homeowner to locate and repair the leak in a timely manner.**
- The following graphs show some data log examples of water usage. Our staff uses these graphs to help the customer understand the usage and the possible causes of unknown water usage.



4/22/2015 9:42 am

Data Log Event: 1322348

## MasterLink Data Collection System

### Data Log Report

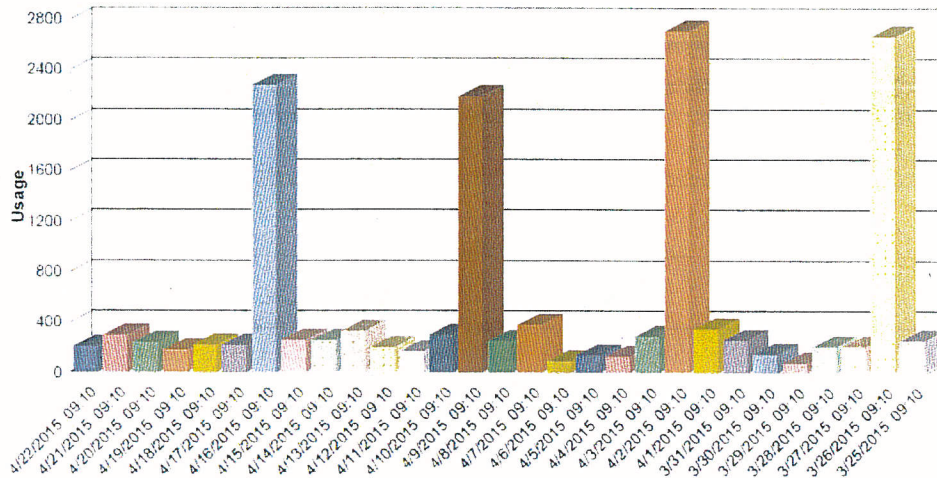
From: 2/3/2015 (09:10) To: 4/22/2015 (09:10)

Address:

Customer:

MeterSN: Electronic ID:

Peak Consumption: 2710 Occurred 4/2/2015 (09:10)



**Figure 1: NORMAL USAGE**

This graph is shown in 24-hour (daily) usage increments. It reflects normal indoor use and includes weekly irrigation use of approximately 2000 gallons. The total usage for the 29 days shown is approximately 15,540 gallons.



4/16/2015 3:12 pm

Data Log Event: 1316546

## MasterLink Data Collection System

### Data Log Report

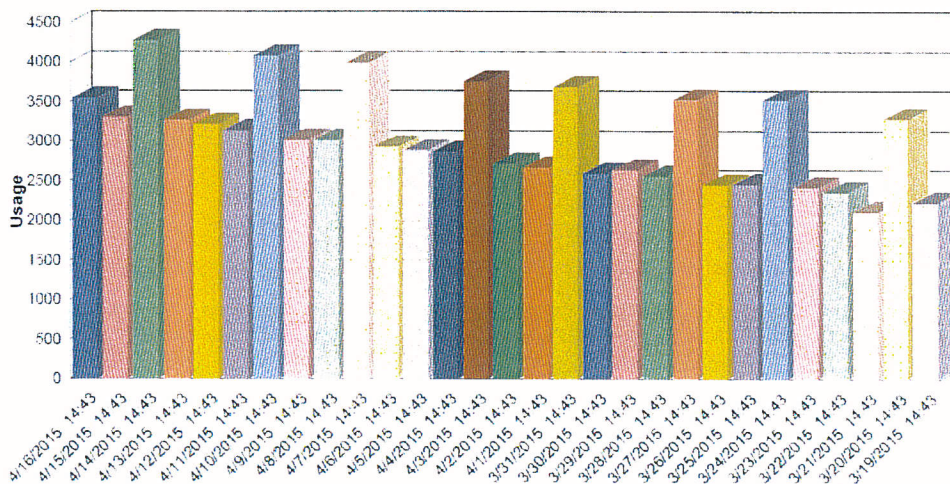
From: 1/17/2015 (14:43) To: 4/16/2015 (14:43)

Address:

Customer:

MeterSN: Electronic ID:

Peak Consumption: 4280 Occurred 4/14/2015 (14:43)



**Figure 2: INCREASING LEAK**

The graph in Figure 2 is shown in 24-hour (daily) usage increments. It reflects a growing leak with irrigation use two times per week. Total usage for this 29-day period was approximately 91,525 gallons.





## MasterLink Data Collection System

9/26/2014 3:54 pm

### Data Log Report

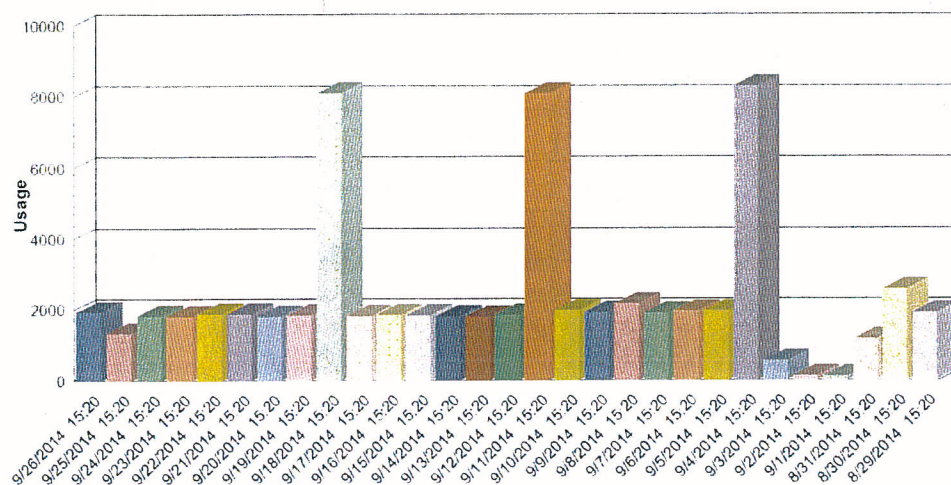
From: 7/15/2014 (15:20) To: 9/26/2014 (15:20)

Address:

Customer:

MeterSN: Electronic ID:

Peak Consumption: 8300 Occurred 9/4/2014 (15:20)



**Figure 3: CONSTANT LEAK**

This graph is shown in 24-hour (daily) usage increments. It reflects a constant usage starting on 9/5/2014 of approximately 2000 gallons, which is about 85 gallons per hour. This constant usage could have been as a result of a pinhole leak in an outdoor waterline that was not easily detected. The total usage for the 29 days shown is approximately 69,640 gallons.

When we review graphs that have similar usage patterns, but the constant usage is at a level of 450-500 gallons daily, this could be a result of an outside faucet that was left on or from a leaking toilet.



11/4/2015 5:14 pm

Data Log Event: 1519611

## MasterLink Data Collection System

Data Log Report

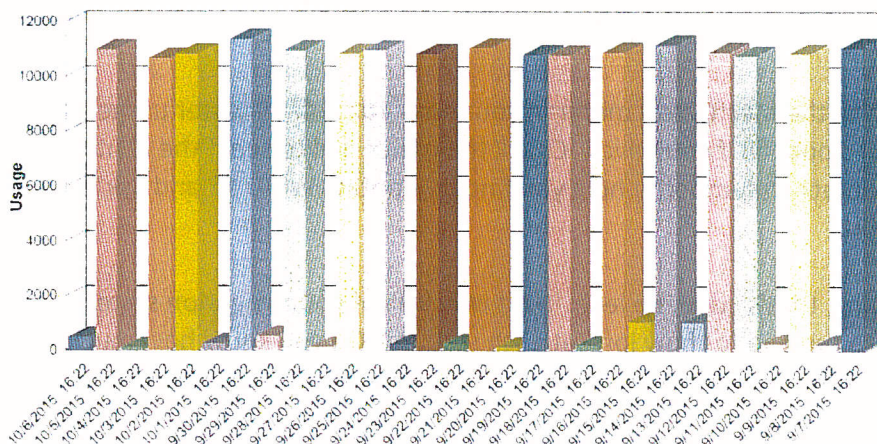
From: 9/5/2015 (16:22) To: 11/4/2015 (16:22)

Address:

Customer:

MeterSN: Electronic ID:

Peak Consumption: 11370 Occurred 9/30/2015 (16:22)



**Figure 4: OVER WATERING**

This graph reflects approximately 11,000 gallons of irrigation use more than every other day from September 7<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>. The total usage shown in this graph is 190,530 gallons, which can be compared to the entire volume of the Comanche Trail Storage Tank.



9/16/2015 10:59 am

Data Log Event: 1469394

## MasterLink Data Collection System

Data Log Report

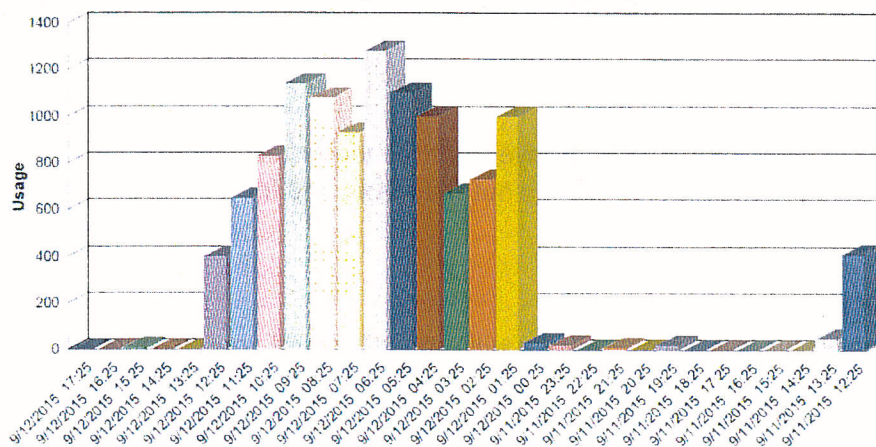
From: 9/7/2015 (00:25) To: 9/16/2015 (10:25)

Address:

Customer:

MeterSN: Electronic ID:

Peak Consumption: 1280 Occurred 9/12/2015 (06:25)



**Figure 5: IRRIGATION PATTERN - OVERWATERING**

This hourly detail graph shows clearly what happened on September 12<sup>th</sup> for the usage in Figure 4 above. The irrigation system started running at approximately 12:30 am and turned off at approximately 12:30 pm, resulting in over 10,000 gallons of usage during that system run.



### **What should you do if you think your water usage is abnormally high?**

Don't panic. Here's what to do:

- Do some simple checks around your property. Did someone leave a hose on? Do you have a running toilet? Is there a faucet with a constant drip?
- Check for a leak by reading the mechanical meter in your box. Turn off all water usage inside and outside your home (including auto pool fill if you have). Check the meter dial to see if the center is spinning, if so, you may have a leak. Contact a plumber to help you find it. Contact WCID 17 and ask for a graph to be pulled, this data may help.
- If the meter is not spinning, that's good, no leak. Next check all of your irrigation system program settings. How often are they set to run and for how long at each station? Do you know how much water the system uses each time it runs? Many people are shocked when they find out how much their system uses.
- If you are not sure how much water your irrigation system is using, you can take a meter reading and write it down, then run a complete irrigation cycle and take another reading. Subtract the first reading from the second to find the total irrigation usage per cycle; then multiply this number by the number of times the system runs each month to get the total irrigation usage per month. For example, if your system uses 4,000 gallons each time it runs one cycle and you water twice a week, your irrigation uses 32,000 gallons per month.
- Next add your irrigation usage to the estimated in-home water use to get the total estimated monthly usage. A household of two persons uses about 4,000 gallons per month in-home.
- If the usage amount still seems way off, contact WCID 17 and we will send a technician out to do a complete investigation. Remember, you can also request one free irrigation audit per year from WCID 17 by emailing [ltterrell@wcid17.org](mailto:ltterrell@wcid17.org) with "Irrigation Audit Request" in the subject line.

### **Can a meter be tested?**

Yes, we can send the meter to a third party tester, however, if the meter test comes back as satisfactory, you will be responsible to pay for the service call to change out the meter and for testing fees. This costs approximately \$120.

### **Can I get an adjustment on my bill?**

- Yes! If a meter or billing problem is discovered, we will promptly credit your account on the next billing statement.
- If you had a leak, and had it repaired, you can get an unintentional water loss adjustment once per year. Submit a copy of the repair bill with a request by letter or email. You will still have to pay for the water you used, but it will be at a reduced rate. Accounts will not be adjusted for irrigation over-use or fixtures left on, even if unintentional.

**What if I'm still not satisfied?**

- If you are not satisfied with the staff resolution of your problem, please contact the General Manager, Deborah Gernes, email: [dgermes@wcid17.org](mailto:dgermes@wcid17.org), who will assist you and investigate the problem further.
- If you are still not satisfied with the action taken, you can attend a monthly Board of Directors meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the District office to voice your concerns. Public Comment is posted for 6:30 p.m.
- We at WCID 17 strive for open communications and transparency. We are here to assist you in any way we can through good stewardship and open dialogue.



## WHAT IS WATER WASTE?

Water waste is defined as:

1. Failing to repair a controllable leak including sprinkler heads, valves, pipes, or faucets.
2. Allowing irrigation water to run off into the street for a distance of 50 feet or more, or allowing it to pond in the street or parking lot to a depth greater than 1/4 inch.



### WCID #17 Outdoor Watering Calendar

#### *Residential*

Mandatory May 1st – September 30th  
Odd Numbered Address – Wednesday and/or Saturday  
Even Numbered – Thursday and/or Sunday

#### *Commercial / Home Owner Associations*

Mandatory – All Year Round  
Tuesday and/or Friday

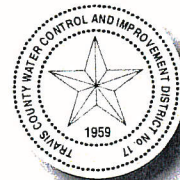
Adjust your automatic irrigation system to water on your days before 10 am or after 7 pm.

Hand-held hose or bucket watering is allowed at any time on any day.

Car/boat washing is allowed at any time unless increased conservation is required.

*Conserving Water for Today and Tomorrow*  
[www.wcid17.com](http://www.wcid17.com) for further conservation tips.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT WATER USE IN CENTRAL TEXAS



### Travis County Water District 17

3812 Eck Lane  
Austin, TX 78734  
512.266.1111  
[www.wcid17.org](http://www.wcid17.org)

Brochures



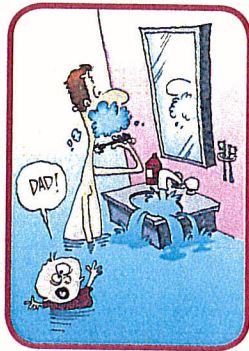
## WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTROLLING MY WATER USE?

### **Because your water is a precious, limited resource.**

Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. To ensure water supplies will be sufficient to serve future needs, water conservation needs to be a way of life for us, and not simply a response to periodic droughts.

### **Because conservation saves you money and saves energy.**

Conserving water saves on both your water and sewer bills; you use less water, and put less down the drain. Less water use means less pumping and lower energy costs for the utility.



### **Because conservation reduces excessive runoff into your rivers and streams.**

Watering less means less water running down streets and into storm drains where it can pollute your environment with fertilizers and insecticides.

### **Because conservation saves you tax dollars and fees by delaying the construction of new treatment facilities.**



### **Because the state requires it.**

All water utilities are required by state law to prepare water conservation plans and implement specific control measures triggered by preset conditions such as water usage levels or drought duration.

Utilities are also required to report usage levels and actions that are being taken to reduce per capita consumption. The regional water planning authorities and Texas Water Development Board have set specific goals to reduce per capita water consumption in the next 5 years.

### **Because it is the ethical and responsible thing to do.**

Central Texas has a hot dry climate in the summer, and is subject to occasional drought periods. As summer temperatures rise and rainfall decreases, much more of our water system's supplies are used for outside purposes such as watering lawns and trees, refilling swimming pools and washing cars. In the summer, many customers use over 5 times what their average use is during the year, and about

60 percent of this water is used on landscaping. If the demand for outside use is greater than the District's ability to treat that water, there may not be enough water for all uses. For example, even though everyone still has enough water, tank levels (our reserves) become much lower, and fire protection could be jeopardized. When pumping and treatment equipment is overworked, mechanical failures can occur creating water outages for everyone. When tank levels are lower, your water pressure will be lower.

## LAKE TRAVIS LOOKS FULL, DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE HAVE PLENTY OF WATER AND DON'T NEED TO CONSERVE?

No, because all of that water doesn't belong to us. What many people don't realize is that essentially all of the water we see in lakes is already appropriated to river authorities, municipalities, and farm irrigation. The state appropriates water to applicants through a system of water rights. The applicants are responsible for making productive use of the water; otherwise the state can reappropriate the water to other users through a process called adjudication. While all water carried in rivers and lakes is appropriated, all appropriated water is not sold. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) which holds the rights to much of the water stored in Lake Travis may also sell it to entities in the Brazos, Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins.

The water in Lake Travis is believed by many to be over appropriated. In a year of average rainfall, all water carried by rivers is fully committed for use. It is the storage volume of reservoirs that permits us to have water in years with less than average rainfall. When the state experiences another prolonged drought such as the one which occurred during the 1950's, there will not be enough water available to support all current uses.

## WHY CAN'T THE DISTRICT PRODUCE ENOUGH SO I CAN USE ALL THE WATER I WANT? IF I CAN AFFORD IT, WHY CAN'T I BUY IT?

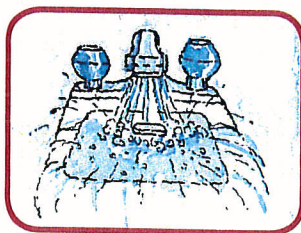
The majority of Texas water systems, including District 17, produce more than enough drinking water year-round. Even though the District is experiencing a period of steady growth, we are constantly constructing new facilities to ensure all present and future





customers have an adequate water supply. It is only during excessively hot and dry periods that demand may occasionally outpace supply as when everyone tries to water their lawns every day at the same time. If the lake level drops, the pumps have to work a lot harder to get water up to the plant, and they pump less. Electric companies often experience the same problem in the summer, and power "brownouts" are common. Anytime the temperature reaches 100 degrees (very common in central Texas) for several days, evaporation rates rise sharply, and vegetation loses much more water. Utility systems (and their customers) would incur huge costs to expand facilities to allow unlimited usage for only a short time during the summer.

### ADEQUATE SUPPLY DOES NOT MEAN UNLIMITED USE.

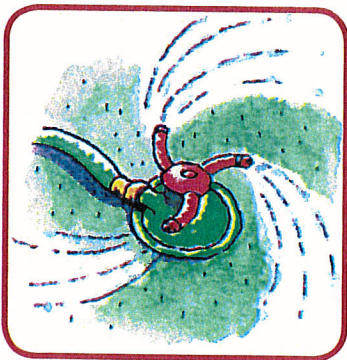


The water treatment plant is designed for a maximum peak day production of 1 gallon per minute per living unit equivalent (single family home) or about 35,000 gallons per month for a 5/8 inch meter in a hot summer month.

This is 30 percent greater capacity than the state requires.

### IS THAT WHY THE DISTRICT WANTS ME AND MY NEIGHBORS TO WATER ON DIFFERENT DAYS IN THE SUMMER?

Yes! By managing water use during hot dry periods you'll have less impact on the water system while meeting your own needs. When the heavy usage is evenly spread, the water plant can recover completely every day, and all tanks can maintain the proper storage. Every person who doesn't limit his usage to a reasonable amount is putting more pressure on the water system than is necessary and is taking water from his neighbors.



### OK, I'M CONVINCED! WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP CONSERVE WATER IN HOT DRY WEATHER?

Without a doubt, the most important thing you can do is to carefully follow the recommended watering schedule, and be efficient with your water use outside.

If you hire a landscaper or irrigator to set your watering schedules, be clear about your expectations. Some companies over-water automatically to avoid complaints. Discuss over-watering, routinely fixing broken heads, and not over spraying.



### BE AWARE OF HOW MUCH WATER YOU ARE USING.

Look at your water bill, and in the summer try to keep your usage under 35,000 gallons for a 5/8" meter and 45,000 gallons per month for a 3/4" meter.

### BUT THE RECOMMENDED WATERING SCHEDULE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ENOUGH. WON'T MY GRASS DIE?

Most landscape plants get more water than they need. You can keep landscaping alive even during the worst summer heat by following these tips.

- START EARLY IN THE YEAR!!! (late March is best) to condition your lawn to being watered two days a week or less. (From October to March, you may not have to water very much at all). Water deeply 1 to 1.5 inches. This practice will encourage deep root systems and make for healthier, drought tolerant grass.
- Use native plants that do well on little water.
- Try not to plant or install new sod in the summer months. Give your plants time to get established before facing the summer heat. New grass, plants and shrubs require frequent watering for quite a while. Many new plants will die in the Texas summer heat even with constant watering.





- Mulch around plants to hold in water and discourage weeds.
- Install efficient irrigation systems. Avoid sprinklers with fine sprays. Don't water during the heat of the day (10 am to 7 pm) when 60% of the water will be lost to evaporation. Install a moisture sensor system so that you will not be watering when it is raining.
- Use drip irrigation for bedded plants, trees and shrubs.
- Adjust automatic sprinkler systems so that they water landscaping and not sidewalks, driveways and pavement.
- Don't water on windy days.
- Water only enough to restore water lost to evapotranspiration (ET)
- If it rains during the week, subtract the rainfall from your required watering amount.



## WHAT IS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION?

Evapotranspiration, or ET, is one method you can use to determine how much water your plants need. Your landscape gets water through precipitation or irrigation. Much of this water is lost due to evaporation from the soil or transpiration from plant surfaces – a process called evapotranspiration. ET data represents the "plant water need" or the amount of water your landscape needs for a specific time period. ET varies with weather factors such as temperature, humidity, and wind, and affects how much water is needed when irrigating landscapes. Other factors such as plant type and soil conditions also affect irrigation needs.

Weather stations in the area record data such as temperature, humidity, and wind to calculate ET values. As weather factors and day length change, the amount of ET that needs to be replaced changes also. Most weather programs in Texas give the ET rate on the evening news, and you can also get data from the Texas A&M site: <http://www.overton.tamu.edu/weather/pet.htm>

Here's a way to calculate how much you should water:

ET rate, in inches (What plants need)	Rainfall, in inches (What plants got naturally)
1 .22	0.3
2 .23	0.0
3 .21	0.0
4 .20	0.0
5 .22	0.2
1.08 inches	0.5 inches

Using this chart, subtract the rainfall from the ET to know what amount you should water, i.e., 1.08" minus 0.5" = .58" — water a little over a half inch.

## OK. BUT HOW DO I KNOW HOW LONG TO RUN MY SPRINKLERS?

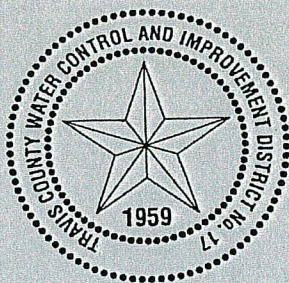
Your irrigation professional can tell you, or you can easily figure it out yourself. Set out several empty tuna cans on your lawn about eight to ten feet from the sprinkler. Turn on the sprinkler and mark the time. Measure the amount of time it takes to accumulate about one inch (use the average of the depth in the cans). Longer watering is only wasting water and costing you money.



## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE MY YARD WATER SMART?

- Water District 17 [www.wcid17.org](http://www.wcid17.org)
- Texas Water Development Board [www.twbd.state.tx.us](http://www.twbd.state.tx.us)
- WaterWise Council of Texas [www.waterwisetexas.org](http://www.waterwisetexas.org)
- [www.watersmart.org](http://www.watersmart.org)
- [www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon)





ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### WATER CONSERVATION REMINDER

**Residential** customers with **odd numbered** addresses should water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

**Residential** customers with **even numbered** addresses should water only on Thursdays and Sundays.

**Commercial customers** water only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

A field representative noticed that you were

- \_\_\_\_\_ Watering on a day that is not your designated day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Watering at the wrong time of day. Please water before 10:00am or after 7:00pm only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Excess water run-off. Please make adjustments to your irrigation system.

Please do your part. Thank you for your cooperation in our conservation efforts.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Field Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

*See back for additional information*

Water District #17 is under **MANDATORY** outdoor watering restrictions for Residential customers from May 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, and a year-round **MANDATORY** outdoor watering restriction for Commercial customers. **You are in violation of this ordinance.** Please do your part to conserve water so that everyone will have enough this summer and to avoid further penalties for water restriction violations. **A 2<sup>nd</sup> offense or greater will result in water service being turned off immediately.** All fines must be paid before water service will be re-activated. You may call the emergency pager at 397-9061 in order to get service re-activated.

#### Violation issued:

- ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning, no penalty
- ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - \$200 fine, water off.
- ☐ 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - \$500 fine, water off.
- ☐ 4<sup>th</sup> offense - \$1000 fine, water off.
- ☐ 5<sup>th</sup> offense - \$2000 fine, water off.

You may call the Emergency Pager at 397-9061 in order to get service re-activated.

[www.wcid17.org](http://www.wcid17.org)

**All fines must be paid before water will be turned back on.**