

# Water Conservation Emergency Regulations Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



## **When do the restrictions go into effect?**

The new water restrictions went into effect August 1, 2014. They will remain in effect until at least April 1, 2015. At that time, the State may decide to extend the restrictions if drought conditions persist. Additional local watering restrictions may be ongoing or permanent.

## **What are the new water restrictions, and how do they apply to me?**

Recently, the State passed drought emergency regulations that prohibit certain types of outdoor water use. Here's what you need to know:

- Washing down driveways and sidewalks is prohibited. The only exception is for health and safety related circumstances.
- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff is prohibited. This means no water can run off of your landscape and into the sidewalk, driveway or gutter.
- Irrigation of landscaped areas must be conducted between the hours of 5 pm and 9 am and on specific days. Even numbered addresses should water on M,W,F and odd numbered addresses on T, TH, S. Sunday is a "dry day" with no irrigation allowed.
- Irrigation may not exceed 15 minutes per sprinkler station.
- Using a hose to wash a motor vehicle is prohibited, unless the hose is fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle. This applies to all types of motor vehicles: cars, boats, etc.

## **What does the exemption to the prohibitions to protect public health and safety entail?**

The regulations state that the prohibitions apply "except where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need". Generally speaking, a health and safety exception should be applied in good faith where a reasonable person would conclude that the application of water is necessary to address public health and safety. Washing a sidewalk or driveway for aesthetic purposes, for example, would not be a health and safety need. To clean a sidewalk or driveway, dry cleaning methods such as sweeping should be used.

## **Can I water my lawn outside of the designated days or 5 pm to 9 am time?**

No, this would constitute a violation of the restrictions in effect.

## **Can residents do more than what is required by the regulations?**

Yes, the regulations represent a minimum level of effort and everyone is encouraged to do more.

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## How will the new water restrictions be enforced?

The city will notify residents (through letters, door hangers, etc.) to make them aware of the violation that occurred. This will typically be a step-up process that focuses on education and assistance to help the customer remedy the issue. After multiple rounds of notification, fees or penalties could be assessed. The city, water agencies and residents will be held responsible for the new statewide water restrictions; we're all in this together.

## How is the city doing their part?

The city is doing many things to reduce water use at public properties, like reducing irrigation run times, conducting audits of irrigation lines and sprinklers and replacing broken sprinklers.

## What resources are available to help me reduce my water use?

There are a wide range of programs and incentives to help you reduce your daily water use. The Municipal Water District of Orange County and your local water agency offers rebates on water efficient devices, like smart sprinkler timers and rotating sprinkler nozzles; rebates for replacing turf with California Friendly landscapes; free home water use surveys and water-wise gardening classes; and much more. Visit [www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com) for information. The city has also partnered with the County or Orange to raise awareness about overwatering through the Overwatering Is Out Campaign. Visit [www.overwateringisout.org](http://www.overwateringisout.org) for more information and water saving tips.

## Who do I report violations of the prohibitions to?

Violations of the prohibitions can be reported to the city at (562) 431-2527 extension 1414. Information provided should include location, day, and time of the observed prohibition.