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quick facts on...

RESIDENTIAL/COMMUNITY Water-Use Restrictions PHASE III

MAY 2007

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

NOTE

This document represents a summary of Phase III Water-Use Restrictions as they apply to **residential/community use**. For more details, or for a copy of the Water Shortage Rule visit www.sfwmd.gov

Water restrictions DO apply to water from ALL SOURCES: public utilities, private wells, canals, lakes, ponds and rivers. Exception: 100 percent reclaimed water use is not restricted.

Water Shortages

Water shortages and water conservation fall under the District's mission for water supply.

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its water supply. While South Florida gets an average of 52 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, Florida Statutes; Ch. 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies.

Water Users

Water users are grouped into categories according to use – residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc. – and, according to the source from which the water comes. Residential users are the largest user-group affected by water restrictions.

Water-Use Restrictions

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – Phase I, **moderate**; Phase II, **severe**; Phase III, **extreme**; and, Phase IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use. The District correlates each phase of the restrictions to the overall percentage of reductions needed.

Phase III water restrictions require water users to limit outdoor water use (see back page). These actions are intended to produce a 45 percent reduction in overall demand

on our water resources by all users. Because all users do not use the same amount of water, Phase III restrictions DO NOT mean that public utilities must reduce the amount of water they sell by 45 percent. It is up to ALL water users from all sources to get us to the overall 45 percent reduction.

General Guidelines

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire fighting, are not restricted.
- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to the use of reclaimed water.
- Water restrictions DO apply to water from ALL SOURCES: public utilities, private wells, canals, lakes, ponds and rivers. Exception: 100 percent reclaimed water use is not restricted.
- Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

Residential/Community Water-Use Restrictions PHASE III Summary



Because about half the drinking water used in South Florida is for landscape irrigation, the District targets outside water use for restrictions. Irrigation is most efficient in the early-morning hours when less evaporation occurs.

Florida's Water
It's Worth Saving

Landscape Irrigation & Maintenance for Homes and Businesses With Less Than Five Acres of Land

- Watering is permitted on **Saturdays** from **4 a.m.-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9).
- Watering is permitted on **Sundays** from **4 a.m.-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address.
- **Hand watering** with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is also allowed from **5 p.m.-7 p.m.** on the same day as irrigation day.
- Stressed areas of existing landscaping may be spot watered using low-volume hand watering, as minimally as necessary to prevent plant die off, any day between **5 p.m.-7 p.m.**, once a week, for a maximum of 10 minutes per stressed area.
- **New landscaping**, planted for less than 30 days, may be watered **Monday, Wednesday and Saturday** from **2 a.m.-8 a.m.**
- Hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle of new landscaping shall be voluntarily reduced.
- Watering in of **pesticide/fertilizer** by homeowners or nonlicensed individuals is allowed during hours and days of the watering schedule and for 10 minutes after application. Owner or nonlicensed individual must be on site.
- Watering in of pesticide/fertilizer by a licensed technician shall be voluntarily reduced. The technician must be present during application.
- When cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems, 10 minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, 10 minutes per zone of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

Landscape Irrigation & Maintenance for Homes and Businesses With More Than Five Acres of Land

- Watering is permitted on **Saturdays** from **12:01 a.m.- 8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9).
- Watering is permitted on **Sundays** from **12:01 a.m.- 8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address.
- New landscaping, planted for less than 30 days, may be watered **Monday, Wednesday or Saturday** from **12:01 a.m.- 8 a.m.**
- Hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle of new landscaping shall be voluntarily reduced.
- Watering in of pesticide/fertilizer by homeowners or nonlicensed individuals is allowed during hours and days of the watering schedule and for 10 minutes after application. Owner or agent must be on site.
- Watering in of pesticide/fertilizer by a licensed technician shall be voluntarily reduced. The technician must be present during application.

- When cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems, 10 minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, 10 minutes of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

Car, Boat & Equipment Washing (Residential/Unlicensed Individual Enterprise)



- Washing of cars, boats and other equipment is permitted **4 a.m.-8 a.m.** and **5 p.m.-7 p.m.** on the landscape watering days. Washing must be done on, or must drain to, a non-paved surface that permits water to soak into the ground. And, it must be done using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle and/or low-volume pressure cleaner.

- Rinsing of salt spray from vehicles in coastal areas using low-volume methods shall be limited to 2 minutes per vehicle one time per day.
- Rinsing and flushing of boats after saltwater use is allowed once a day for up to 15 minutes per boat immediately after use.

Other Outdoor Water Uses

- Washing or rinsing of sidewalks, driveways, streets or other paved surfaces is **NOT ALLOWED** at any time unless done with low-volume pressure cleaning equipment. That is, the equipment must be designed to reduce the volume of water used.



- Non-commercial low-volume pressure cleaning of any surface and structure is permitted Monday through Friday.
- Live-aboard boats that serve as a primary residence may be washed or rinsed during the landscape watering day/time schedule based on the number of the boat slip or the address of the location of the dock.

- Filling or refilling of swimming pools is allowed. If a pool is emptied, it must drain onto a non-paved surface such as a lawn.
- Re-circulating fountains and ornamental water features may be operated if the water use is efficient, meaning that there is no wind drift, leaking or overflowing of water.

For more information, visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov/conserve or call our **Water Conservation Hotline** at **(800) 662-8876**.



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sfwmd.gov

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 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin/Naples
 239-263-7615
 Broward
 954-713-3200
 Florida Keys (Plantation Key)
 305-853-3219 or 800-464-5067
 Lower West Coast
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie
 772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100
 Miami-Dade
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300
 Okeechobee
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200
 Orlando
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250
 Palm Beach County
 561-682-2283 or 800-432-2045