



Dealing With Drought

Summer 2015 Update



California continues to endure one of the most severe droughts in its history. With the state's water supplies at record-low levels, the Governor's Office and water officials took further steps to put additional, mandatory water conservation regulations in place. All Californians will feel and see the impact of these water use restrictions.



Water Regulations and Conservation Information

www.newportbeachca.gov/water
www.watersmartnewport.org
949-644-3388

City of Newport Beach
100 Civic Center Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660

What the Recent Changes Mean to Newport Beach

The City of Newport Beach (City) is the local enforcer of the State's regulations and must implement local restrictions to reduce our community's water use by 28 percent (as compared to residential water use in 2013). The State will impose heavy fines upon communities that fail to meet the mandated water reduction percentages. In order to meet our community's conservation requirement and avoid fines, the Newport Beach City Council has put into effect further water use restrictions for City water customers.

Outdoor Irrigation Schedules

The days that you can water grass and gardens will be different depending on where you live in Newport Beach. Lawns and landscapes can now only be irrigated a maximum of two days per week from April through October and one day per week from November through March.

You can learn more by:

- Visiting www.newportbeachca.gov/water to view a map or simply type in your address.
- Logging onto your City online bill pay account (*for customers that pay electronically*) to view your outdoor watering schedule.
- Looking to your Municipal Services Statement to see your watering days.

Reduce Your Water Use 25 Percent

City water customers must reduce their water use by 25 percent (as compared to your water use in 2013). The City is taking action at its facilities to obtain the remaining three percent reduction required. Together, we can meet the 28 percent reduction mandated by the State.

Permanent Conservation Measures (Apply to all Newport Beach residents)

The City adopted a set of permanent water conservation measures in 2009 that prohibit the following:

- Watering over 15 minutes per station for automated irrigation systems.
- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff.
- Washing down hard surfaces including sidewalks and driveways.
- Not repairing water leaks or breaks quickly.
- Irrigating lawn, shrubs, or ornamental landscape during and after 48 hours of a rainfall.
- Operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Washing a vehicle (including cars, trucks, boats, trailers, and recreational vehicles) with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a positive shut-off nozzle.

June 2015 Changes

*(Apply to City of Newport Beach
Water Customers Only*)*

The following temporary measures will be in place through at least February 2016:

- No landscape watering is allowed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Watering lawns and landscaping is limited to two assigned days per week from April through October and one day per week from November through March.
- No customer's water use should exceed 75% of their "base amount." The base amount is the water used during the same billing period in 2013.
- Water leaks must be repaired within 24 hours.
- Ornamental lakes, ponds or fountains can be refilled no more than once every other week.
- Swimming pools/spas can only be filled or refilled three inches per week.

***Note:** If you receive water service from an agency other than the City (such as Mesa Water District or Irvine Ranch Water District), please contact your water supplier for their requirements. Mesa Water: 949-631-1200 or IRWD: 949-453-5300

Exceptions to Restrictions

Currently exempted:

- Maintenance of vegetation watered by bucket, hand-held nozzle, or drip system
- Irrigation of food crops
- Maintenance of an irrigation system (testing/repair).

Always exempt:

- Water used for public health/safety
- Public pool refilling, operation, and maintenance
- Irrigation of fuel modification areas
- Hospitals and medical facilities
- Businesses whose sole trade is cultivating plants, like nurseries.



What if I've Already Been Conserving Water?

Some households have already been aggressively reducing their family's water use or have always used a very modest amount of water. It would be challenging to cut their water consumption an additional 25 percent. Other families may realize a change in circumstances, such as an increase in the number of persons in the home, making it difficult to compare their current water use to the amount of water used in 2013. The City offers "relief from compliance" for qualifying households. Relief from Compliance application forms are available online at www.newportbeachca.gov/water. Please call 949-644-3388 for assistance.

Enforcement

Gaining voluntary compliance with the conservation measures is the City's primary goal – first through education and assistance, then through warnings. However, if a violation is particularly egregious or if there is continued noncompliance, fines will be imposed at \$100, \$200 and \$500 per violation or billing cycle.

Please Help Us, Too!

Please let us know if you see a broken sprinkler or overwatering at a City park or facility. The Water Conservation Information number is 949-644-3388 or you can report online at www.newportbeachca.gov/quest or through the MyNB smart phone application.

What is the City Doing to Save Water?

In the short-term, the potable water irrigation to all turf-covered medians in Newport Beach has been turned off* and the City is continuing to replace the turf grass with California-friendly plant materials. The landscape irrigation at City parks has also been drastically reduced. While most athletic fields will continue to be watered (for community use and injury prevention purposes), the City is evaluating fields or grassy park areas that can be replaced with artificial turf as is currently taking place at Bonita Creek Park. The City is also evaluating additional areas of the City that can be plumbed to provide recycled water for landscape irrigation.

* Medians irrigated with recycled water will continue to be watered.

Conservation Rebates, Meter Tests, Home Surveys, and Assistance

There are a number of rebates, free programs and workshops available to help customers:

- For rebates and tips – www.watersmartnewport.org
- For meter leaks, contact us at 949-644-3011.
- For a home water survey visit www.ocwatersmart.com and click on the "home certification" logo.
- For up-to-date water conservation regulations and drought information please visit us at www.newportbeachca.gov/water.