

# Frequently Asked Questions about Water Restrictions Starting April 18, 2008

## What lawn watering schedule will be in place in the City of Tamarac beginning April 18?

Lawn irrigation for all property sizes is allowed two days a week on the following schedule:

- Residents with **odd**-numbered street addresses may water lawns and landscapes on **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Residents with **even**-numbered street addresses or with no street address, may water lawns and landscapes on **Thursdays** and **Sundays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

For the most efficient use of water, residents should avoid irrigating during both time periods on the same day.

## How much of these expanded watering opportunities should I use to irrigate my lawn?

Lawns and landscapes need to receive only three-quarters to an inch of water each week. This means it can take as little as two hours of irrigation per week to keep the lawn healthy, and there may be no need to water the lawn at all if it has rained during the week.

## Instead of changing the designated watering days, why weren't more days added to the current schedule?

We are returning to the same Wednesday/Saturday and Thursday/Sunday schedule used before water supply conditions made it necessary to move to once-weekly watering. Under this schedule, every address has a weekday and weekend day opportunity to irrigate, while maintaining Fridays as a no watering day for everyone. Lawn irrigation can use up to 50 percent of the available daily water supply. Limiting it to two consecutive days with at least one no-watering day in between will reduce stress on the water supply. Some water utility companies could face water pressure problems if irrigation was allowed for several days in a row, for example, from Monday through Thursday.

## When can I water newly planted sod, trees or other landscaping?

Additional days and times are available for new plantings:

- New landscaping can be watered without regard to restrictions on the first day it is installed.
- Landscaping that has been in place from 2 days to 31 days can be watered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and/or Sundays.
- Landscaping that has been in place from 31 days to 60 days can be watered on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

- Additional watering days can only be used to benefit new landscaping, and an entire irrigation system zone may only be watered if it contains at least 50 percent new landscaping.

**I water my lawn from a well, canal, pond or surface lake. Do these restrictions apply to me?**

Yes. Surface and groundwater sources are connected. Water in lakes and canals helps to protect private and public wells from saltwater intrusion, and helps store rainfall to recharge wells and aquifers.

**Can I hand-water my lawn?**

Yes. You can hand water stressed plants for 10 minutes per day using a single hose with an attached automatic shut-off or trigger nozzle.

**When can I wash my car or boat?**

Anytime. Vehicle washing is not restricted, but voluntary conservation is encouraged. When washing a car, park it over a non-paved or porous surface to limit water runoff, and always attach an automatic shut-off or trigger nozzle to your hose. Limit boat rinsing to 15 minutes after it has been in salt water.

**My organization is scheduling a fundraising car wash. Do we need to apply for a variance?**

No. There are no restrictions on vehicle washing. Always attach automatic shutoff or trigger nozzles to hoses and, if possible, channel runoff water to a grassy area or porous surface.

**When can I use a water pressure washer?**

Anytime. Pressure washing is not restricted. Use low-volume equipment that produces water pressure of 1,000 pounds per square inch to 4,000 pounds per square inch. Channel runoff water onto the grass or another non-paved surface.

**What happens if I don't follow these restrictions?**

Residential and commercial water restrictions are mandatory and will be enforced by South Florida Water Management District staff, local governments and law enforcement agencies. Residential fines vary by municipality, but typically range from \$25 to \$125 for a first offense.

**What are the restrictions for golf courses beginning on April 18?**

Golf courses must reduce their allocated water use by 30 percent, but are not restricted to watering at certain days or times.