

City of Palm Beach Gardens needs your help with Water Conservation



The City of Palm Beach Gardens needs your help in conserving water for the protection of our environment, particularly as we experience serious drought conditions. The City's Code Compliance Division and the Police Department have collaborated on water restrictions enforcement. The following are some frequently asked questions:

Q: What water sources are subject to water restriction?

A: With the exception of reclaimed water, restrictions apply to all other sources of water for irrigation, including wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Q: What is reclaimed water?

A: Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater and can be used for irrigation and other uses to extend our water supplies. Reclaimed water is a clear and odorless high-quality water source for irrigating industrial and natural systems needs.

Q: I see cities or golf courses or recreational businesses watering at times when I cannot. Do the water restrictions apply to them?

A: Yes, the restrictions apply to almost all outside water users -- but restrictions for large users, such as cities, golf courses or farms are different than those for residents. Cities are often governed by [Commercial restrictions](#), which vary from those for residents, usually because larger areas and systems are regulated. Other large users, such as golf courses or farms are required to reduce overall use by 15% under the current restriction -- instead of having designated days and hours. Many are also required to make frequent reports to the South Florida Water Management District on the quantities they are using and are subject to fines if they do not meet goals or make reports.

Q: Is micro or drip irrigation exempt from restrictions?

A: Micro-watering and low-volume drip systems can continue to be used—as long as they are installed under the plant canopy to provide water directly to roots and are used only when needed by plants. In addition, the system must not produce any runoff.

Q: What about washing cars or boats?

A: Cars, boats and any other vehicle washing is allowed. Use a hose with a shut-off valve and wash the vehicle over a non-paved area or over an area where run-off can be channeled onto a grassy or porous area.

Q: What about pressure cleaning? Can I still get my house ready for painting or clean my roof?

A: Low-volume pressure cleaning is allowed; however, we encourage that pressure washer run-off is channeled onto the grass or some other non-paved area.

Q: I am not sure I can comply with the restrictions and need a variance. What do I do?

A: You can apply for a variance through the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to change your watering days/or times. The application and instructions can be obtained online at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

Q: Do we have to shut off our decorative fountain during the water restrictions?

A: Not necessarily. Fountains that re-circulate water can continue operating as long as they do not leak and are properly maintained. However, if the fountain does not re-circulate or overflows onto paved areas, it must be turned off.

Q: How do I report a violation?

A: To report any water restriction violations please contact: [799-4445](tel:799-4445).

For additional information, please refer to <http://www.sfwmd.gov> or 1-800-432-2045 or Neighborhood Services-Code Compliance (561) 799-4245

