

June 2009



just the **FACTS**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

Landscape Irrigation Water Restrictions

For all of Collier, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and most of Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, and the cities within Lee County, except Cape Coral.

Landscape Irrigation

- For **odd-numbered addresses**, irrigation is allowed on **Wednesday and Saturday** from **12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.**
- For **even-numbered addresses**, irrigation is allowed on **Thursday and Sunday** from **12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.** This includes properties with no street address and with systems that irrigate both odd and even addresses within the same zone, including multi-family units, homeowners associations, commercial complexes and retail shopping centers.
- Landscape irrigation restrictions apply to water from a utility, a private well, canal, lake or pond and properties of all sizes.
- For the most efficient use of water, avoid irrigating during both time periods on the same day. Most lawns need only 3/4 to 1 inch of water per week.
- Low-volume systems such as drip, bubble and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used any time.

New landscaping, sod or other plantings

- On first day of installation, new landscaping can be watered without regard to restrictions.
- In place from **2 days to 30 days**, new landscaping can be watered on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and/or Sunday** from **12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.** Watering is not permitted on Fridays.
- In place from **31 days to 60 days**, new landscaping can be watered on **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Saturday** from **12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.**
- Additional watering days can only be used for new landscaping. An entire irrigation system zone may only be watered if it contains at least 50 percent new landscaping. Use targeted or hand watering if less than 50 percent of landscaping is new.
- New landscaping should be installed within a reasonable time from the date of purchase and verified with a receipt or invoice.



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Frequently asked questions

- **100 percent reclaimed and/or supplemental reclaimed water** can be used for irrigation from **12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.** on any day of the week.
- **Hand watering** on stressed plants is allowed for 10 minutes per day on any day using a single hose with an attached automatic shut-off nozzle.
- **Low-volume watering methods** that apply water directly to root plant zones, including drip, bubble and micro-jet systems, and watering cans may be used any time. Water collected in cisterns and rain barrels may also be used for irrigation any time. Low-volume irrigation should not produce water runoff.
- **Car and boat washing, pressure washing and charity car washes** are not restricted. Perform these activities over a non-paved or porous surface to prevent water runoff.
- **Violations of water restrictions** may be reported to local law enforcement or city/county zoning and code enforcement agencies. Both have the authority to issue warnings and citations that can lead to fines. If you choose to notify your local law enforcement agency, please call their non-emergency number.
- **Mandatory water restrictions are 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. Civil penalties for violations of restrictions by District permittees and commercial users begin at \$1,500 and can increase depending on the severity of the violation.
- **Variations from restrictions** that may allow you to change your watering days and/or times can be applied for through the South Florida Water Management District. The application form and instructions are online at: www.sfwmd.gov/watershortage. Applications will be reviewed by South Florida Water Management District staff, and approval or denial is based on criteria listed in the Water Shortage Plan Rule. Water restrictions must be observed while a variance application is under consideration. For more information call (800) 432-2045.

For more information on water shortage restrictions, visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov/watershortage, or call our Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.