

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

The mandatory water use restrictions outlined below become immediately effective and enforceable under Section 160-13C of the Westminster City Code when the City's water system reaches Stage 3 – Red – Mandatory Restrictions status under the approved Drought Management Plan. These restrictions control, regulate and limit the use of the City's public water supply.

Watering of grass is prohibited:

- Except to establish and maintain newly seeded and sodded grass areas.
- Except to maintain athletic fields or golf courses provided a water conservation plan ** is in effect.
- Except wastewater effluent or storm water treatment systems utilizing spray irrigation may apply water in designated areas according to permit conditions.

Use of sprinklers and other automatic watering devices is prohibited for purposes of irrigation, watering of gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants. Hand held containers may be used for watering such areas.

- Except for agricultural irrigation for the production of food and fiber, the maintenance of livestock and poultry or the production of nursery stock.
- Except by means of a drip irrigation system.
- Except when used by commercial nurseries with a water conservation plan ** in place.
- Except when used by arboretums and public gardens of National, State, or regional significance at the minimum rate necessary to preserve specimens.

Washing paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts and patios is prohibited:

- Except for prewashing in preparation of asphalt street or driveway recoating and sealing.
- Except at the minimum rate necessary for sanitation or public health purposes, such as eating and drinking areas.
- Except at the minimum rate necessary to maintain effective dust control during the construction of highways and roads.

Use of water for the operation of ornamental fountains, artificial waterfalls, misting machines, and reflecting pools is prohibited:

- Except for systems that continuously recycle water.

Use of water for non-commercial washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including automobiles, trucks, trailers and boats is prohibited:

- Except commercial car washes with a water conservation plan ** in place.
- Except cleaning of construction, emergency or public transportation vehicles if necessary to preserve the proper functioning and safe operation of the vehicle.

Use of water to fill or top off private (homeowner) pools is prohibited:

- Except for public pools and residential pools serving 25 or more units may be filled or topped off.
- Except for first time fills on newly built pools.

All open burning is prohibited in the City:

- Except for charcoal and gas grills operated safely and located to minimize fire risks.
- Campfires are banned except in park areas where approved campfire rings exist.
- Except for firefighter training facilities.

Serving of tap water in restaurants, clubs or eating-places is prohibited, unless specifically requested by the customer.

All other residential, business and industrial water users are requested to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 10%.

No bulk sales of water without the express approval of the Director of Planning and Public Works.

****Water Conservation Plan** – For purposes of these restrictions, an acceptable water conservation plan is one that achieves or reduction of at least 10 percent in water usage when compared to normal usage during a comparable period. A comparable period is a similar month or quarter during which a user operated to a similar level of activity.