

City of Paso Robles Water Use Restrictions - Frequently Asked Questions

Landscape Watering is limited to three days per week according to the following schedule.

Zone 1

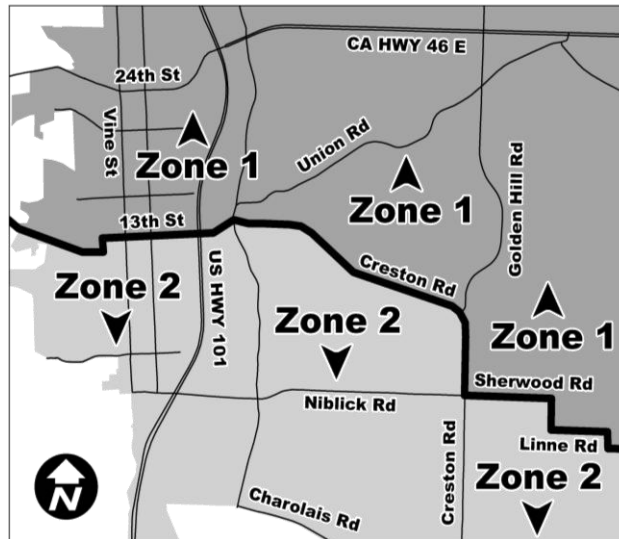
North of 13th St., Creston, Sherwood, and Linne
Water on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Zone 2

South of 13th St., Creston, Sherwood, and Linne
Water on Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

No Watering on Monday

No Watering between the Hours of
9 AM and 7 PM



1. Is compliance with the landscape watering schedule mandatory and are there penalties for not complying with the schedule? Compliance with the irrigation watering schedule is mandatory from May 1 through September 30. During the non-peak season, compliance is voluntary (October 1 through April 30). (See question #10 for penalty amounts for non-compliance during the summer peak season.)
2. Are there other mandatory water usage restrictions besides the 3-day watering schedule? Yes, in addition to following the watering schedule, the City's new conservation ordinance prohibits the following at all times:

Using water to wash or clean a vehicle, including but not limited to any automobile, truck, van, bus, motorcycle, boat or trailer, whether motorized or not is prohibited, except by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device. This subsection does not apply to any commercial car washing facility. Car washing is not subject to the 3-day watering schedule.

Washing down hard or paved surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or alleys, is prohibited except when necessary to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards, and then only by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off device, a low-volume-high-pressure cleaning machine, or a low-volume high-pressure water broom.

Watering or irrigating of any lawn, landscape or other vegetated area in a manner that causes or allows excessive water flow or runoff onto an adjoining sidewalk, driveway, street, alley, gutter or ditch is prohibited.

Excessive use, loss or escape of water through breaks, leaks or other malfunctions in the customers' plumbing or distribution system for any period of time after such escape of water should have reasonably been discovered and corrected and in no event more than seven days after written notification by the City of El Paso de Robles, is prohibited.

Irrigation of residential and commercial landscapes must occur before 9 a.m. and after 7 p.m. except for renovation or repair of the irrigation system with an operator present. (Level 1 shortage condition or higher)

3. Why is the City experiencing summertime water shortages and why are customers being asked to reduce water use? The City depends on wells for 100% of its water supply. Due to ever-increasing demands for groundwater in the Paso Robles area, water levels in many City wells have decreased significantly over the last 10 years, reducing well production rates. A deep water production shortfall is predicted again for summer 2010 despite above-average rainfall this year. The City will need to take proactive conservation measures to offset the projected shortfall and to protect against possible water outages. Demand for water increases dramatically during the May-September period to 330% of winter demands due to outdoor irrigation.
4. What could happen if customer summer water demand exceeds supply and the City runs out of water? If overall City peak summer water demand is not reduced by 20% from pre-conservation program levels, the City may deplete all of its water storage. If that happens, water pressure in the system would drop to unacceptable levels and the water supply could become unsafe to drink. If adequate system pressure is not maintained, effected areas may be required to boil water prior to use for drinking or cooking. Additionally, the water storage tanks provide the City with necessary reserve capacity for fire protection. If the tanks drop below minimum levels, water will not be available to fight fires and public safety will be at risk.
5. How much water do I need to apply to my lawn? As an overall guideline, it is recommended that residents limit watering to no more than 12 minutes per station for pop-up spray systems during the summer months. This is a guideline, and may need to be adjusted, depending on your irrigation system and site conditions. For more information, call the Water Conservation 227-7250.
6. I do not know how to reprogram my irrigation timer to comply with the schedule. Please call the water conservation office at 227-7250 for assistance.
7. I'm doing my part, but my neighbor is not complying with the watering schedule. If you provide the address, the City will send somebody out to provide a notice to the customer about complying with the watering schedule.
8. I just received a Notice of Violation. How much time do I have to adjust my watering schedule before I receive another Notice of Violation? Seven days, but it is recommended that you do so as soon as possible.

