

City of Thornton
Water Use Rules and Regulations
Stage 1 Drought Watch
Effective September 11, 2018

The following voluntary standards will be used to implement the City of Thornton's voluntary water use restriction program pursuant to a Stage 1 Drought Watch Declaration effective September 11, 2018. The purpose of these voluntary standards is to manage water demand and preserve water supply for 2019 in the Thornton community.

- 1) **Outdoor Irrigation:** By following these voluntary standards water customers can reduce water lost to evaporation and increase the drought resistance of their lawns.
 - a. Watering 2 days per week is sufficient to maintain an established lawn. These standards do not apply to the installation of new lawns from sod or seed. For more information on efficient irrigation techniques, please visit www.ThorntonWater.com.
 - b. Limit established turf irrigation to the **early morning or late evening hours** to reduce water lost to evaporation.
 - c. Limit established turf irrigation to no more than **2 days per week**, selected at the customer's discretion.
 - d. Limit watering times on residential properties to no more than 14 minutes in spray zones, 31 minutes in rotor zones, 39 minutes in rotary zones and 22 minutes if using manual sprinklers. Watering times are estimated based on the water requirement for a 2 day per week watering schedule.
 - e. Use a day of rain to skip a watering day and try not to water during high winds.
 - f. No turf irrigation between October 15, 2018 and April 1, 2019.
 - g. The City encourages deep root, drip, bubbler, soaker hose or hand irrigation of trees, shrubs, bushes, perennial beds, annual flowers and vegetable gardens as needed during the cooler hours of the day.
 - h. Water established trees and shrubs 1 - 2 times per month during the cooler hours of the day using deep root, drip, bubbler, soaker hose or hand irrigation.
 - i. **Public schools, City parks, athletic/playing fields and other City maintained public areas** may irrigate turf areas outside of the above turf irrigation schedule as needed to appropriately irrigate large areas but should irrigate in a manner that meets the water saving goals of the City.
 - j. **Golf course greens, tees, and fairway areas** may irrigate turf areas in a manner outside of the above turf irrigation schedule to appropriately irrigate large areas but should irrigate in a manner that meets the water saving goals of the City.
 - k. **New/Replacement Turf:** The Installation and irrigation of new or replacement turf areas, whether established from sod or seed, and the installation of new or

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replacement trees, shrubs, bushes and perennial beds, are allowed. The City encourages the use of drought resistant turf grasses and landscape materials consistent with the Landscape Code.

2) Pools, Hot Tubs, Fountains, Ponds.

- a. **Fountains, Waterfalls, Ornamental Ponds:** Outdoor fountains and waterfalls may be operated, and ornamental ponds can be filled, refilled or topped off. Water features that do not recycle water should be shut down.
- b. **Pools and Hot Tubs:** Pools and hot tubs may be filled, refilled or topped off. Use of pool and hot tub covers is encouraged to reduce water loss through evaporation.

3) Washing of vehicles:

- a. Limit car washing to no more than once per week. The City encourages the use of a commercial car wash that recycles water or the use of a bucket and a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle to reduce water waste. (Some homeowner associations (HOAs) prohibit car washing at residences within their jurisdiction – this does not override their policy.)
- b. Vehicles operated within commercial operations or fleets of five or more vehicles, or vehicles offered for sale, lease or rent are encouraged to be washed no more than once per week.

4) Washing of Impervious Surfaces: Limit washing of impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and patios, except when necessary for public health or safety reasons.

- a. The use of water for commercial or City street-sweeping operations is allowed only as required to remove materials when necessary for public health or safety reasons.
- b. The use of water for commercial enterprises for which cleaning with water is an essential element of their business is allowed.
- c. The use of power washers to strip paint from the exterior walls of a home for repainting is allowed as long as it is done in a reasonable and prudent manner so as not to waste water.

5) Serving of Water by Restaurants: Restaurants are requested to serve water only upon the customer's request.

6) Water Use for Construction Projects. Recognizing that water is used to control dust and provide for soil compaction in the construction industry, professional builders may

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use water for these purposes as long as it is done in a reasonable and prudent manner so as not to waste water.

Water Waste: Wasting water is prohibited by these Rules and Regulations and by the Thornton City Code. Water waste is defined in the Thornton City Code as the intentional, unintentional, or excessive use of water that is not considered reasonable, prudent or a wise use of water for an authorized purpose, including but not limited to, by way of example, the following:

1. Allowing water to be applied in any manner, rate or quantity such that the water is allowed to pool or flow across the ground or into any drainage way, such as gutters, streets, sidewalks, alleys or storm drains is prohibited. Exception: Incidental runoff from an irrigation system operated in a reasonable and prudent manner.
2. Failing to repair, for a period of more than 10 days after notice, leaking or damaged pipe, hose, or irrigation components is prohibited.

For questions regarding these Rules and Regulations and to report water waste, contact the Water Resources Division at 720-977-6600.

Approved:



City Manager



Date

