



## Water Restriction Quick Guide for Citizens of Sarasota County

May 2009

*These restrictions apply to all unincorporated Sarasota County, City of Venice, City of North Port and the portion of Englewood Water District within Sarasota County. The City of Sarasota may have different requirements.*

*Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) declared a Phase III water emergency on Feb. 24, 2009. Residents and visitors are required to comply with all water restrictions. Violators may be subject to fines without warning.*

### LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION (in effect since January 2007)

Irrigation restrictions apply to any irrigation system using water from a utility, well, lake, pond or canals. Irrigation systems include automatic in-ground systems and sprinklers connected to garden hoses. These restrictions do not apply to reuse/reclaimed (sewer effluent) water or micro-irrigation system which may have different restrictions.

- No irrigation is allowed at any time on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.  
Irrigation is allowed on the following days, one time per irrigation zone per day:  
**Tuesdays** - Even numbered building addresses (numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8), addresses ending in A through M, and common areas (medians, recreational areas or other areas with no address).  
**Thursdays** - Odd numbered building addresses (numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) and addresses ending in letters N through Z.  
*Note: The above irrigation restrictions may differ from other areas in the district.*
- Irrigation is prohibited between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day for properties under 2 acres in size. Hand watering is also prohibited during these times.
- Property owners should ensure irrigation timers and run times do not extend past midnight on their allowable watering day. Timers should be adjusted for daylight saving time when it begins and ends.
- Irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for properties greater than 2 acres in size. Hand watering is also prohibited during these times.
- Excessive water running off of property is prohibited, including sprinklers spraying into street or other non-landscaped area.
- Irrigation is only allowed one time per zone per allowable watering day.
- An irrigation system operating during or soon after a substantial rainfall is prohibited both by state law and county code and subject to an immediate \$100 (plus court fee) citation.

### MISCELLANEOUS WATER USES

Other water uses, such as cleaning driveways (other than food service establishments), wasting water, allowing hoses to run without a shut-off nozzles, leaking hoses and leaks that are not repaired, are prohibited.

### NEW LAWNS/SOD

**On the first day of installation only**, new lawns may be irrigated any time of day and any day of the week. After the first day, new lawns may be irrigated every day for the first 15 days, before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. On days 16 through 30, new lawns may be irrigated every other day before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. New plugs in an established lawn, or random sod infill, do not qualify as new lawn and therefore must comply with hand watering instructions stated below.

### NEW PLANTINGS

On the first day of installation, new plantings may be irrigated any time of day and any day of the week. After the first day, new plantings may be irrigated every day for the first 30 days, before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. On days 31 through 60, new plantings may only be irrigated every other day, before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. New plantings must be at least 50 percent of the area being irrigated. Areas less than 50 percent of new plantings must comply with hand watering instructions stated below.

### MICRO-IRRIGATION

Micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can still be done on any day, however limited to the hours of before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

### HAND WATERING OF PLANTS

Hand watering of plants, hanging baskets or gardens is allowed any day of the week before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Hand watering of lawns is NOT allowed unless doing so for application of fertilizer or pest control. Hand watering of new plantings is allowed when less than 50 percent of the landscaped area (added new shrub or tree) before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. All hand watering by a hose requires the use of a shut-off nozzle.

## SWFWMD VARIANCES

Properties with a valid SWFWMD variance are subject to all conditions of their variance and must comply with the irrigation times stated above. Properties needing to apply for a variance can obtain an application at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/restrictions/swfwmd.html> or call SWFWMD at (800) 423-1476. Sarasota County and the municipalities do not issue variances.

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM TESTING/MAINTENANCE

Irrigation systems can be tested anytime of day and any day of the week, but the customer or the contractor must be present. The system can run only as long as it takes to test irrigation heads for proper spray and time.

## PRESSURE WASHING

Pressure washing is allowed using a low volume method for annual maintenance of roofs and house exteriors and for painting or health and safety reasons.

## CAR WASHING

Car washing at home, using a hose and shut-off nozzle, is allowed. It should be done on a grassy area to prevent run off and should be limited to once a week preferably on your assigned watering day.

## LARGE/COMMERCIAL USERS

Some large users such as golf courses, landscape companies, plant nurseries or other high volume water users may have separate SWFWMD requirements regarding their individual well permits and therefore may have different irrigation schedules.

## FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES

Aesthetic fountains and other water features may operate four hours per day. The regular hours of operation can be selected by the owner but must be posted.

## FERTILIZER AND PEST CONTROL APPLICATIONS

Watering of fertilizer and pest control applications, based on the manufacturer's instructions, is allowed on the same day of application before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. If manufacturer's instructions are unknown, the professional applicator must post temporary signs with the date of application and the date(s) of needed watering. The signs may read: "Water two days, once a day, after application which was done on (state the date)."

## FILLING OF LAKES BY A WELL (Water Body Augmentation)

Filling of a lake or pond by a well is prohibited, unless required by a water-use permit or Environmental Resource Permit or at a minimum amount to maintain and preserve fish and wildlife.

## ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS

In unincorporated Sarasota County any violation witnessed by a code enforcement agent will result in a minimum \$100 citation (plus court fee). **No warning will be issued.** Enforcement actions may vary in the City of Venice, City of Sarasota and the City of Venice.

### **Contact information:**

Sarasota County (unincorporated)	941-861-5000	<a href="http://www.scgov.net">www.scgov.net</a>
City of Sarasota	941-365-2200	<a href="http://www.sarasotagov.com">www.sarasotagov.com</a>
City of North Port	941-240-8000	<a href="http://www.cityofnorthport.com">www.cityofnorthport.com</a>
City of Venice	941-480-3333	<a href="http://www.venicegov.com">www.venicegov.com</a>
Englewood Water District	941-474-3217	<a href="http://www.englewoodwater.com">www.englewoodwater.com</a>
Southwest Florida Water Management District	1-800-423-1476	<a href="http://www.watermatters.org">www.watermatters.org</a>