# CITY OF EDINBURG

## WATER CONSERVATION
## STAGE 2 – REVISED MANDATORY COMPLIANCE
## "WATER ALERT"
## ***CURRENTLY IN EFFECT***

1) Irrigation utilizing individual sprinklers or sprinkler systems of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, and other plants is prohibited except as follows: **Customers whose addresses end in odd numbers may water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and customers with even-numbered addresses may water only on Thursdays and Sundays, and only then, between the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.** The irrigation of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, or other plants is permitted at anytime, on designated irrigation days, if:

i) a handheld hose is used;

ii) a handheld, faucet-filled bucket of five (5) gallons or less is used; or

iii) a drip irrigation system is used.

Exception:
Commercial nurseries, commercial sod farmers, and similarly situated establishments are exempt from stage 2 irrigation restrictions, but will be requested to curtail all nonessential water use.

2) The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment is prohibited except on designated irrigation days between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a handheld bucket, or a handheld hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses.

Exception:
Washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial carwash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleaning, such as garbage trucks and vehicles to transport food and perishables.

3) The washing or sprinkling of foundations is prohibited except on designated irrigation days between 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

4) The refilling or adding of water to residential swimming and/or wading pools is prohibited except on designated irrigation days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

5) The operation of any ornamental fountain or other structure making similar use of water is prohibited except for those fountains and structures with a recycling system. The use of treated water to fill, refill, or maintain the level of any fountain is prohibited.

6) The use of water for irrigation for golf greens and tees is prohibited except on designated irrigation days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. The irrigation of golf course fairways is absolutely prohibited. Provided, however, any golf course utilizing wastewater effluent or raw water is exempt from the provision of this article.

7) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities, and/or other activities necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Edinburg.

8) The following uses of water are defined as "waste of water" and are absolutely prohibited:

i) Allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain;

ii) Failure to repair a controllable leak;

iii) Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios, or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire hazards.

Enforcement:
1st offense-Oral warning and educational process.
2nd offense-Written warning and educational process.
3rd offense- Citation to Municipal Court for fine up to $200 per violation; mandatory educational program; or possible disconnect, to continue until fines are paid and the educational process is completed to be determined by the Municipal Court.

(956) 388-8212, Utilities Administration
(956) 388-8220, Water Plant (after hours)

**IMPORTANT:**
**Water Conservation materials are available at City Hall, 415 W. University.**
**"CONSERVING WATER IS THE FUTURE OF EDINBURG"**

City of Edinburg
Utility Department
P. O. Box 1079
Edinburg, Texas 78540

# CITY OF EDINBURG

## CONSERVAMIENTO DE AGUA
## ETAPA 2 - MANDATO PARA CUMPLIR
## "ALERTA DE AGUA"
## ***ACTUALMENTE ESTA EN EFFECTO***

1) El riego que utiliza sistemas individuales de regaderas de cespedes, cultivos, jardines, arbustos de arboles y otras plantas, se prohibe **excepto que los domicilios que terminan en numeros nones pueden regar miércoles y sábado, y domicilios en termino pares pueden regar jueves y domingo y unicamente de media noche a 10:00 a.m. y de 6:00 p.m. asta medianoche**. Preveido sin embargo el riego de cespedes, cultivos, jardines, los arbustos de arboles u otras plantas se permitiran en cualquier hora en los dias designados de reigo si:

i) una manguera de mano se usa;

ii) una cubeta de mano llena de cinco galones o menos se usa; o

iii) un sistema de riego de goteo.

Excepcion:
Huertas comerciales, granjas, negocios para plantar, y establecimientos similares seran exentos hasta la etapa dos de restriccion de riego, pero se pediran que se fije el uso no esencial de agua.

2) El lavado de automoviles, camiones, aviones, barcos, y otros tipos de equipo movil se prohibe excepto sobre los dias designados de riego de 6:00 p.m. y 10:00 a.m. El tal lavado, cuando permitido, se hara con una cubeta sostenida a mano o una manguera sostenida a mano equipada con una boquilla de presion para enjuagues rapidos.

Excepcion:
El lavado puede hacerse a cualquier hora sobre el local inmediato de un establecimiento de lavado de carros. Adicionalmente, el tal lavado puede ser exento estas reglas si el bienestar y seguridad de salud del publico es necesario en base a la limpieza frecuente de tales vehiculos y camiones, como de desperdicio para transportar alimentos y perecederos.

3) El lavado o rociodo de fundaciones se prohibe excepto sobre los dias designados de riego de 6:00 p.m. y medianoche.

4) El repuesto o adicion de agua a albercas residencial y/o albercas inflables se prohibe, excepto sobre los dias designados de riego de 8:00 p.m. y 10:00 a.m.

5) La operacion de cualquier fuente decorativa u otra estructura de uso similar de agua se prohibe, a excepcion esas fuentes/estructuras con una sistema recircular. El uso de agua tratado para llenar o mantener el nivel de cualquier fuente se prohibe.

6) El uso de agua para el riego de cursos de golf y arboles se prohibe excepto sobre los dias designados de riego entre las horas de 8:00 p.m. y 10:00 a.m. El riego de campo de golf se prohibe absolutamente. Preveido sin embargo que cualquier campo de golf que utilize aguas grises o negras esten exentas de las provisiones de este articulo.

7) El uso de agua fuera de bombas de incendio se limitara a actividades de emergencia y otras actividades necesarias para mantener el bienestar y seguridad de salud de los ciudadanos de Edinburg.

8) Los siguentes usos de agua se definen como "derrochadores de agua" y se prohiben absolutamente:

i) Permitir que el agua corra a un desague o zanja de drenaje;

ii) Falta de reparar goteras;

iii) Lavado de banquetas, entrada para vehiculos, patios, canchas de tenis, areas de estacionamento u otras areas pavimentadas excepto para aliviar peligros inmediatos de incendio.

Sanciones:
1er ofensa – advertencia por oral y proceso de educacion
2da ofensa – advertencia por escrito y proceso de educacion
3er ofensa - citacion corte municipal con multa de hasta $200 por cada violacion; programa educacionnal forzoso; o possible desconectar el servicio a continuar hasta que se paguen multas y se complete el proceso educativo que determinara el corte municipal

(956) 388-8212, Utilities Administration
(956) 388-8220, Water Plant (after hours)

**IMPORTANTE:**
**Materiales de Conservamiento de Agua estan disponibles en el Edificio Municipal, 415 W. University.**

**"CONSERVANDO AGUA ES EL FUTURO DE EDINBURG"**

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# Water Saving Tips

**Facts**

Did you know that more plants die from over-watering than from under-watering? That irrigation can be as much as 80% of a family's water consumption during the spring and summer months? And more than 40% of the City's total water demand is used for irrigation and outdoor activities?

The 2011 Statewide Drought showed how vulnerable water supplies are to extreme events. Establishing water conserving habits impact water demand and delivery today, but more importantly today's reductions in water use impact long range water supply infrastructure improvement planning.

**Recommended Outdoor Conservation Practices**

- Walk across the lawn, if you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- "Cycle and soak" – Water in two to three short cycles rather than in a single long period of time is more efficient and beneficial and allows the water to soak deeply into the ground between the cycles. For example, Water for four minutes, wait at least 60 minutes to allow soil to absorb the water. Then water another four minutes, and then wait again. If necessary, water another four minutes. Chances are you will see a significant improvement in your lawn's beauty and health.
- Position sprinklers so they're not water driveways and walkways.
- Follow the City's Water Conservation Plan and water only when needed on your two specific days.
- Hand-water with a hose where possible. Homeowners who water with a handheld hose routinely use one-third less water outdoors than those using an automatic sprinkler system.
- Water lawns when wind speed is low to reduce over spray.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.

**Automatic Irrigation System Operation**

There are many ways to reduce the amount of water that goes through your irrigation system.

- Evaluate your irrigation system for water use efficiency – turn on the system and check for broken and misaligned heads.
- Inspect your system every month for leaks and spray head that need adjustment.
- Adjust your irrigation controller (timer) run time for seasonal changes in weather once a month. Making a monthly change to irrigation operation times can save a significant amount of water and money.
- Operate irrigation systems manually – automated irrigation systems can use more water than the plants actually need. Manual operation regulates efficient water use by watering only when the plants need it. For example, grass in the shade may need water only once per week; grass in the sun may need water only twice per week.
- Program your irrigation timer to water in two or three short cycles rather than a single long period of time. Allow time between the short cycles for the soil to absorb the water. For example, if you normally water for 15 minutes, this: water for four minutes, wait 60 minutes or more for it to soak in, then water another four minutes, then wait again, then, if necessary water another four minutes. Now you have watered for a total of 12 minutes rather than 15. Even with the reduced total watering time, chances are you will see a significant improvement in lawn health and appearance.
- Make sure tall grass, ground covers, shrubs, ornaments, or fixtures are not blocking or deflecting the water spraying from the sprinkler heads.

- Install a rain switch which is a simple rain sensor. When it detects measurable rainfall, it turns off automatic irrigation system. Engage your community – connect to news, events and information you care about.
- Replace old sprinkler heads as new models are much more water efficient.
- Switch to drip irrigation for watering shrubs. Drip irrigation is about 20% more water efficient than sprinklers.

**Landscaping Ideas**

**Rainwater Harvesting**

Rainwater harvesting is a technology used for collecting and storing rainwater from rooftops, the land surface or rock catchments using simple techniques such as jars and pots as well as more complex techniques such as underground check dams. The techniques usually found in Asia and Africa arise from practices employed by ancient civilizations within these regions and still serve as a major source of drinking water supply in rural areas. Commonly used systems are constructed of three principal components; namely, the catchment area, the collection device, and the conveyance system.

You can use rainwater harvesting for irrigation and save money on water costs.

**Xeriscape**

Xeriscape landscaping, quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment, is the most exciting concept to hit the landscape industry in decades. The term Xeriscape was coined in Denver, Colorado in 1978. Whether called Xeriscape, water-wise or water-smart landscaping, landscape and water industry professionals throughout the nation have embraced landscape water conservation through education.

Texas has more than 20 educational projects currently active. Demonstration gardens and tours, seminars, television programs and design contests are just a few of the methods used to make the Xeriscape concept familiar throughout Texas and the nation.

In an attempt to reduce the excessive water use, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is educating Texans in Xeriscape landscaping. This concept is a first-of-a-kind, comprehensive approach to landscaping for water conservation Traditional landscapes may incorporate one or two principals of water conservation, but they do not utilize the entire concept to reduce landscape water use effectively.

Xeriscape landscaping incorporates seven basic principals which lead to saving water:

- Planning and design
- Soil analysis
- Practical turf areas
- Appropriate plant selection
- Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches
- Appropriate maintenance

By incorporating these seven principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource-water. Xeriscape landscapes need not be cactus and rock gardens. They can be green, cool landscapes full of beautiful

plants maintained with water-efficient practices. The same green Texas-style landscape which we are accustomed to can be achieved and still conserve water.

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has a wealth of information available for use to design and plan home gardens and landscapes.

**Water Efficient Plant Selection**

Water efficient plants are plants that either require little water to survive or are extremely tolerant of dry, desert-like conditions.

Refer to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Earth-Kind Landscape Program before choosing water efficient plant materials suitable for the Rio Grande Valley area.

**Household Tips**

These are lots of small things the whole family can do around the house to conserve water.

**In The Kitchen**

- When washing dishes by hand, use a sink full of soapy water. Don't let the water run
- Scrape food from your plate instead of rinsing. Newer dishwashers and detergents get dishes just as clean without the need to pre-rinse.
- Chill drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet until the water is cold
- Don't use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave
- Wash vegetables and fruits in a bowl using a vegetable brush instead of letting the water run

**Every Day Activities**

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save four gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four
- If you turn off water while you shampoo and condition your hair, you can save more than 50 gallons a week.

**Water Efficient Appliances**

Look for the WaterSense_ Label. Products bearing the WaterSense label are products that are backed by third party testing and certified to meet the EPA's specification for water efficiency and performance. WaterSense products include:

- Toilets
- Bathroom sink faucets
- Urinals
- New home materials
- Showerheads

**Water Efficient Tips**

- Replacing older toilets with low-flow models can save up to 50% of water. Fixing toilet leaks. Plumbing leaks as a whole account for 14% of water consumed in the home, according to the AWWA.

- Installing water-saving showerheads that use two and a half gallons per minute or less can cut your shower water usage by two thirds.
- If you're thinking about buying a new washer, make sure it's a water-saving, WaterSense model
- Fix leaky faucets. A steady faucet drip can waste up to 20 gallons a day.

**Water Leaks**

Find your water meter. The first place to detect a leak is at the water meter outside. You can check yourself or call Utilities at 956-388-8212 if you think it is leaking. There may be tow meters inside you water meter box. Yours is usually the one closest to your house (the other is your neighbor's).

Not sure which is which? Turn on a faucet at your house. When you see the numbers on the dial moving, you've found your meter. You can also match the meter number on you bill to the number on top of the cap covering the meter dial.

**Examine Your Dial**

Some meters have a leak detector besides the hand of the dial. If there's even a small amount of water going through the meter, the leak detector will turn. If there's no leak detector, you should see a sweep hand that you can watch for movement. Make sure all faucets are turned off inside your home, and no water is being used, then check the leak detector on your water meter for movement.

If it doesn't turn, you've got a leak. To find the source of the leak, check your toilet first, and then examine the pipes in and around the hose. Damp spots underneath pipes may help you pinpoint the source of the leak. Outside, look for soggy areas around your foundation and irrigation system. Is it your toilet?

Toilets with leaky flappers can cost you money, and waste a substantial amount of water. To determine if you have a leaky flapper, drop special dye tablets or a little food coloring into the toilet tank. If the color appears in the toilet bowl, you probably have a leaking flapper

**Potential Savings**

Even small leaks and drips add up fast. For an average Texas home using 9,000 gallons a month, a dripping faucet can cost over $10 a month. If that leak worsens to a dribbling, steady stream, the cost rises to between $50 and $100 each month in wasted water. Have a worn out or defective toilet flapper that keeps your toilet constantly running? Expect to shell out another $50 to $100.

Your costs skyrocket when you're wasting hot water. Water, heating and wastewater costs for a small steady stream of hot water, just a quarter of a gallon per minute, can cost over $200 a month. Keep putting off the repair, and you'll waste $2,400 in a year.

**Leak Repair**

If you have a serious leak, we recommend you contact a plumber. However, some leaks can be repaired by the do-it-yourselfer. Local home improvement stores can assist repair instruction; some offer plumbing repair workshops.