



## TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

# **Mandatory** **WATER RESTRICTION** **EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2009**

### **Water Shortages**

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its' water supply. While South Florida gets an average of 52 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood. South Florida is currently experiencing severe drought conditions with rainfall amounts during 2006 and 2007 between 8.86" and 11.25" below normal.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the South Florida Water Management District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, Florida Statutes; Ch. 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies.

Landscape irrigation accounts for up to half of all household water consumption in Florida. It is critical for everyone's health and safety that enough water be available for public use throughout the extended dry season. Restricting the days and times that water is used for irrigation will reduce the demand on one of our most precious natural resources.

### **Water-Use Restrictions**

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – Phase I, **moderate**; Phase II, **severe**; Phase III, **extreme**; and, Phase IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use.

### **General Guidelines for All Water Users**

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire fighting, are not restricted.
- **Water restrictions DO apply to water from ALL SOURCES: public utilities, private wells, canals, lakes, ponds and rivers.**

**Exceptions: 100 percent reclaimed water use is not restricted.**

- Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

### **Residential/Community Category** **Water-Use Summary**

Because about half the drinking water used in South Florida is for landscape irrigation, the District targets outside water use for restrictions. **Irrigation is most efficient in the early-morning hours when less evaporation occurs.**

#### **Landscape Irrigation & Maintenance for Homes, Multi-Use Family Units/Multi-Use Complexes and Businesses**

- **If your address ends in an EVEN NUMBER, has multiple street address or includes rights-of-way, water on THURSDAY AND/OR SUNDAY.**
- **If your address ends in an ODD NUMBER, water on WEDNESDAY AND/OR SATURDAY.**
- Properties may be watered during on the **designated day**, either from **12:00AM to 10:00 AM** or **4:00 PM to 11:59 PM**.
- **Hand watering** with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is also allowed on the same days.

#### **NEW PLANTINGS, SOD, or LANDSCAPING:**

- **Younger than 30 days** – Every Day Except FRIDAY  
**12:00AM to 10:00AM** or **4:00 PM to 11:59 PM**
- **From 31 to 60 days**, Water MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY  
**12:00AM to 10:00AM** or **4:00 PM to 11:59 PM**

Irrigation of new landscaping is limited to areas containing the new landscaping only. An entire zone of an irrigation system may only be utilized for irrigation if that zone area contains at least 50% new landscaping. If the zone contains less than 50% new landscaping, only individual new plantings are eligible for additional irrigation. Hand watering of stressed plants may be done any day for 10 minutes. **Keep documentation on new landscaping in case required to show proof of installation date.**

## General Requirements

### Cars, Boat & Equipment Washing

#### **(Residential/Unlicensed Individual Company)**

- **Washing** of cars, boats and other equipment is permitted, voluntary conservation is encouraged. Vehicles should be parked on a non-paved surface to limit runoff and permit water to soak into the ground. Use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle and/or low-volume pressure cleaner.
- **Washing** and detailing of cars if done by a licensed individual or company using an automatic shut-off nozzle and low water-use techniques shall be voluntarily reduced.
- **Rinsing** and flushing of **boats** after saltwater use is allowed once a day for up to 15 minutes per boat.

### Other Outdoor Water Uses

- **Washing** or rinsing of sidewalks, driveways, streets or other paved surfaces is **NOT ALLOWED** at any time unless done with low-volume pressure cleaning equipment. That is, the equipment must be designed to reduce the volume of water used.
- **Low-volume** pressure cleaning of any surface and structure is permitted.
- **Live-aboard boats** that serve as a primary residence may be washed or rinsed using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle and/or low-volume pressure cleaner.
- Filling or refilling of **swimming pools** is allowed. If a pool is emptied, it must drain onto a non-paved surface such as a lawn.
- **Re-circulating fountains and ornamental water features** may be operated if the water use is efficient, meaning that there is no wind drift, leaking or overflowing of water.

### Fertilizer/Pesticide Application and Irrigation System Repair

- Application and watering in of fertilizer and/or pesticide may be done for 10 minutes after application any day during the week as long as the property owner or licensed technician is present during application.

### Golf Courses

- A voluntary **cutback** from permitted allocation is requested. Permit holders must report their weekly water usage at [www.sfwmd.gov/conserv](http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserv)

### Tennis Courts

- Clay or Har-Tru tennis courts may be watered, voluntary reductions are requested.

### Marinas

- Commercial boat washing shall use low-volume methods and water usage shall be voluntarily reduced.

### Restaurants

- Restaurants are encouraged to serve water only when requested.

## Applications for Variances

Users seeking relief from water-use restrictions should file an application that states how the request qualifies for a variance and describes the nature of the relief desired. The applicant must provide reasonable assurances that the variance will not otherwise harm the water resources of the District. Users must conform to water use restrictions until the variance is granted. Forms and instructions available at [www.sfwmd.gov/conserv](http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserv).

For more information, visit the web site at [www.sfwmd.gov/conserv](http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserv) or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.

## Further Water Supply Shortages

The District may declare more stringent restrictions as set forth in Phases III and IV. For the average person, the major difference in the phases is the number of days and hours that water may be used outside the home. Residential/Community irrigation hours: Phase III – one day for three hours; Phase IV – one day for one hour; and, in more severe conditions, the District may restrict all outside watering.

- **This is a summary of the South Florida Water Management District's Policy, in accordance with Town of Fort Myers Beach Ordinance 96-09.**
- **Please** refer to the South Florida Water Management District website at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) for more specific information.

- **Beginning April 1, 2009**, the Town will begin issuing citations associated with the Water Restrictions.

- First Citation = \$25.00
- Second Citation = \$100.00
- Third Citation up to \$500.00
- Plus Associated Court Costs

Report watering violations to Fort Myers Beach Code Enforcement Office at (239) 765-0202