



2015 Drought Emergency Water Restrictions

* Frequently Asked Questions *

What are the current water restrictions, and how do they apply to me?

Statewide drought emergency regulations prohibit certain types of outdoor water use:

- ◆ **Watering landscape within 48 hours of a rain event is prohibited** (recycled water is exempt).
- ◆ **Washing down driveways and sidewalks is prohibited** (except for health/safety reasons).
- ◆ **Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff is prohibited.** This means no water can run off of your landscape and into the gutter.
- ◆ **Using a hose to wash a motor vehicle (car, boat, etc.) is prohibited, unless the hose is fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle.**
- ◆ **Fountains/water features must recirculate the water, or they must be turned off.**
- ◆ **Mandatory watering restrictions are in effect – check with your local water agency for information.** Locate your water provider at www.mwdoc.com/about/member-agencies.

Additional water use restrictions apply to restaurants and hotels:

- ◆ **Restaurants can only serve water upon request.**
- ◆ **Hotels/motels must give guests the option to not have towels/linens laundered daily.** A notice regarding this option must be prominently displayed.

Free restaurant and hotel placards and table tents are available at www.mwdoc.com/about/drought.

How will the water restrictions be enforced?

Water agencies will notify customers (through letters, door hangers, etc.) to make them aware of the violation that occurred. This will typically be a step-up process that focuses on education and assistance to help the customer remedy the issue. After multiple rounds of notification, fees or penalties of up to \$500 could be assessed for continued noncompliance.

If water agencies do not enforce the restrictions, they can be fined up to \$10,000 per day by the State. Both water agencies and residents/businesses will be held responsible for the restrictions; we're in this together.

How are government agencies doing their part?

Government agencies are doing many things to reduce water use at public properties, like using recycled water to irrigate landscapes, reducing irrigation run times, and replacing turf with drought tolerant landscapes. Local water agencies are also stepping up their drought outreach to the public and providing additional incentives for customers to install water efficient devices.

What resources are available to help me reduce my water use?

There are a wide range of programs and incentives to help you reduce your daily water use. The Municipal Water District of Orange County and your local water agency offer rebates on water efficient devices, like smart sprinkler timers and rotating sprinkler nozzles; rebates for replacing turf with California Friendly landscapes; free home water use surveys and water-wise gardening classes; and much more. Visit www.ocwatersmart.com for information.