

## New Water Restrictions FAQ



### **What are the new water use restrictions?**

The Desert Water Agency (DWA) Board of Directors on Tuesday, June 7 adopted new water restrictions to comply with State Water Board emergency regulations and help with the statewide drought. They are effective immediately and include:

- No spray/sprinkler irrigation during daylight hours (*leak checks are okay – please use a cone*)
- Restaurants to provide water only to guests that ask for it

The State also has a prohibition on certain types of properties watering “non-functional turf” – please review the [State FAQ](#).

### **Do these restrictions apply to all DWA customers?**

Customers using recycled water and those with drip irrigation can continue to water during daylight hours. DWA recommends all customers water early morning and/or late evening to avoid evaporation.

### **Why is DWA imposing these new water use restrictions?**

In response to Governor Newsom’s March 28 Executive Order N-7-22, California’s State Water Board mandated that water suppliers implement Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans.

### **Is DWA going to run out of water?**

Desert Water Agency is NOT running out of water. In the end, these restrictions will help our community because they reduce water demand and decrease the amount of imported water needed to replenish our groundwater basin.

### **What other water saving actions are in place?**

To further help save water, DWA, as part of its Level 2 Water Shortage Contingency Plan will:

- Increase water waste patrols
- Actively discourage overseeding
- Reach out to customers about rules
- Reduce hydrant and dead-end line flushing

### **How does the state ban on watering “non-functional turf” affect me?**

The State is prohibiting businesses, governments and HOAs from watering “non-functional turf” which is considered grassy areas that are not actively used for community events or recreation. These areas can continue to be watered if necessary for the health of trees and shrubs. Recycled water use is not subject to this rule and can still be used. Please check out the [State’s FAQ](#) on their prohibition.

**How are HOAs affected by these new rules?**

HOAs should follow the rules on not watering during daylight hours and any clubhouse facilities should not serve water to guests unless they ask for it. Grass in common areas of HOAs, if not recreational or protective of trees and shrubs, is subject to the State's prohibition on irrigation. Please check out the [State's FAQ](#) on their prohibition.

**How do you know if I am checking for a leak?**

Desert Water Agency personnel will look for crews or cones in the area that demonstrate the sprinklers are running for a leak check. If these things are not visible, our team will issue a citation.

**What are daylight hours?**

During different time of year, the daylight hours shift. Please adjust your timers monthly to ensure you're watering before sunrise and/or after sunset (non-daylight hours) to avoid citations. This website may help: <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/palm-springs>

Desert Water Agency will be lenient with those within 20 minutes of sunrise and sunset.

**I have more questions that are not answered here, who can I reach out to?**

Please email [conservation@dwa.org](mailto:conservation@dwa.org) or call 760-323-4971 extension 279 if you have any specific questions.