



Department of Environmental Protection

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MassDEP's changes to our nonessential outdoor water use restriction guidance are shown in red below.

Restricted Nonessential Outdoor Water Uses

To the extent feasible, all summer outdoor water use should take place before 9 am and after 5 pm when evaporation and evapo-transpiration rates are lower.

Nonessential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include:

- irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems;
- washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety; and
- washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

The following uses may be allowed when mandatory restrictions are in place:

- irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings during the months of May and September;
- irrigation of public parks and recreational fields by automatic sprinklers before 9 am and after 5 pm;
- irrigation of gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose **or drip irrigation systems; and**
- **irrigation of lawns by means of a hand-held hose only.**

Water uses NOT subject to mandatory restrictions are those required:

- for health or safety reasons;
- by regulation;
- for the production of food and fiber;
- for the maintenance of livestock; or
- to meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by golf courses as necessary to maintain tees, greens, and minimal fairway watering, or irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).

For more information on MassDEP's WMA program, please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/water-management-act-program.html>.