WHATCOM WATER ALLIANCE

Blaine • Ferndale • Sumas • Birch Bay • Lake Whatcom • Point Roberts • Water District #2 • Water District #7

Outdoor Water Conservation

Water Wisely Watering Schedule

The Whatcom Water Alliance will begin implementing a voluntary watering schedule effective June 1st through September 15th. Water customers are asked to water only on designated days based on street addresses. Residents with odd numbered street addresses can water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Mondays are non-watering days to allow the reservoirs to recharge after the weekend.

The watering schedule is a response to increasing summer peak demands. Water usage almost doubles in the summer and places extra stress on Cities and Districts' limited water supplies. 80-90% of the increase in water use goes to outdoor watering for lawns, plants and gardens. A lot of water is wasted due to overwatering. Excessive irrigation increases water costs, depletes water supplies and creates pollution from pesticides and other lawn chemical run-off. It also reduces the water system's ability to maintain adequate pressure for basic water consumption functions such as toilet flushing and provide water for fire fighting.

The voluntary watering schedule will help the Cities and Districts avoid the consequences of wasteful watering practices and provide a more cost friendly and reliable service to its customers.

IF YOU HAVE TO WATER:

- **ODD Addresses** water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
- **EVEN Addresses** water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- **No Watering** on Mondays
- **Water in the Morning** to minimize evaporation when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter
- **Water Deeply, but Infrequently** to build deeper, healthier root systems. Most plants do better if soil is allowed to partially dry out between watering cycles.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ODD	No Watering	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

Watering Exemptions

The Voluntary Watering Schedule does not apply to the following situations:

- Properly operating drip irrigation systems or hand held watering methods
- Limited capabilities with existing older irrigation controllers or devices purchased from home improvement stores
- Watering of flower and vegetable gardens
- Watering of outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets
- Newly newly planted lawns

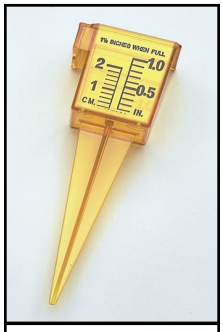
For more information on watering contact the Blaine Public Works at 360-332-8820 or visit our website www.cityofblaine.com.

Outdoor Water Saving Tips

- **Only water your lawn when it needs it.** If you leave foot prints in your lawn, it's time to water.
- **Regularly check and adjust your sprinklers** so only your lawn is watered not your sidewalk or driveway.
- **Adjust lawn mower height** to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than closely clipped lawns.
- **Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.** Fertilizer s promote plant growth, but they also increase water consumption.
- **Use a broom** instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- **Check for leaks** in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses.

"Turf-grasses only need 3/4 to 1 inch of water per week to maintain green color and active growth"

One Inch Per Week!



Rain Gauge

Turf-grasses only need 3/4 to 1 inch of water per week to maintain green color and active growth. It is even healthy to allow your lawn to naturally slow down in growth and become dormant during hot/dry summer conditions.

Too much watering leads to the development of shallow root systems, promotes weeds, makes plants prone to disease and increases stormwater runoff which pollutes our water systems.

A rain gauge is a simple tool to help you measure how much water you are applying to your lawn. If you do not have a rain gauge, tuna cans are great alternatives for measuring the amount of water applied to your lawn.

Programming Your Controller

Well-designed automatic irrigation systems can be extremely water efficient and convenient, but they require correct programming and regular inspection and maintenance of the system. Too often automatic irrigation systems are not installed, programmed or maintained properly. This wastes water and causes your water bill to increase!

Tips for Efficient Irrigation:

- Hire a certified Irrigation Association (IA) Irrigation Contractor to design and install your irrigation system
- Know how to adjust watering times and frequency of watering monthly based on weather conditions
- Regularly check for broken, misdirected or leaking heads and other components to be repaired or replaced.

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