



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHAPTER 119

Nonessential Water Use Restrictions

Effective July 7, 2001

PROHIBITED

EXCEPTIONS

Use of any water for watering grass.

1. Any sewage or stormwater treatment system that is utilizing spray irrigation if the system is approved by DEP prior to the emergency and the spray area is approved prior to or during the emergency.
2. Newly seeded or sodded grass areas can be watered during the hours of 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. by means of a bucket, can or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off.
3. Newly seeded or sodded grass areas can be watered during the hours of 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. by any means designed and operated to ensure effective conservation*.
4. A professional landscaper on newly seeded or sodded grass areas can water during regular working hours by any means designed and operated to ensure effective conservation*.
5. A professional landscaper or irrigation contractor can use water for testing newly-installed or repaired irrigation equipment, not to exceed 15 minutes per zone.
6. Water can be used for grub control, not to exceed one application during the effective period of the Governor's emergency proclamation.
7. Water can be used to implement revegetation following earthmoving, where required under an erosion and sedimentation plan, in a manner that ensures effective conservation*.

Use of any water for watering athletic fields.

1. Any sewage or stormwater treatment system that is utilizing spray irrigation if the system is approved by DEP prior to the emergency and the spray area is approved prior to or during the emergency.
2. Grass tennis courts can be watered by means of a bucket, can or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, or by means of an irrigation system designed and operated to restrict the timing or total volume of water, when applied between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. in a manner that ensures effective conservation*.

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EXCEPTIONS

3. Athletic field grass areas, other than sand-based, can be watered between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., one night per calendar week, in accordance with a schedule submitted to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, local law enforcement agency and, if applicable, to the public water supply agency.
4. Sand-based athletic fields can be watered in accordance with a plan approved by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator.
5. Newly seeded or sodded grass can be watered by a means that ensures effective conservation*.
6. Athletic field nongrass areas can be watered to control dust in a manner that ensures effective conservation*, if necessary to protect public health or safety.
7. Water can be used by professional landscapers or irrigation contractors for the purpose of testing newly installed or repaired irrigation equipment, not to exceed 15 minutes per zone.

Use of fresh water for irrigation and watering of outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants.

1. Irrigation for the production of food and fiber or the maintenance of livestock and poultry.
2. Water applied by means of a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle, or an irrigation system designed and operated to restrict the timing or total volume of water and to restrict the application to specific plantings and that ensures effective conservation*, when applied between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.
3. Water used by nurseries to maintain stock, by a means that ensures effective conservation*.
4. Water used by public gardens of national, state or regional significance or arboretums to preserve specimens by a means that ensures effective conservation*.
5. Water used by a professional landscaper or irrigation contractor during working hours, by a means that ensures effective conservation*.
6. Water can be used to implement revegetation following earthmoving, where required under an erosion and sedimentation plan, in a manner that ensures effective conservation*.

Use of any water for watering of golf courses.

1. Greens, tees and fairways can be watered in accordance with a plan approved by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, between the hours of 5 p.m and 10 a.m.
2. Water can be used by means of a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, to syringe heat sensitive grasses on tees, greens and fairways, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., not to exceed 15 minutes on any grass area.

PROHIBITED

Use of any water for washing paved surfaces, such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, patios, parking areas, tennis courts, decks and patios.

Use of any water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools.

Use of any water for washing or cleaning of mobile equipment, including automobiles, trucks, buses, trailers, carts, wagons, railroad cars, campers and boats.

EXCEPTIONS

3. Water can be used by professional landscapers or irrigation contractors to test newly-installed or repaired irrigation equipment, not to exceed 15 minutes per zone.

1. Water can be used for prewashing in preparation for recoating and sealing a paved surface.

2. Tennis courts composed of clay or similar materials can be watered by means of a bucket, can or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

3. Water can be used for sanitation of the premises of raw or processed food, pharmaceutical or vaccine processing, storage or vending establishments, including restaurants and grocery stores.

4. Water can be used for sanitation of the premises of waste handling, storage and disposal facilities.

5. Water can be used to comply with permit conditions or other regulatory requirements.

1. Water can be used to perform the primary and necessary aeration function for a pond that supports fish life.

2. Water can be used to top off ornamental water gardens or fish ponds to the minimum extent necessary to maintain fish and aquatic life.

1. An individual may wash personally owned or leased vehicles with buckets or by hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle for pre-rinse and rinse, not to exceed a total of two minutes spray time. Water use is limited to odd street addresses on first and third Saturdays of the month and even or no street addresses on second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

2. Water may be used by commercial car washes at the minimum rate necessary to ensure an effective wash.

3. Water may be used for cleaning of construction, emergency, public transportation or government vehicles if necessary to preserve the proper functioning and safe operation of the vehicle.

4. Water may be used for cleaning or sanitizing equipment used for hauling or vending raw or processed food, pharmaceuticals or vaccines, or for handling waste products.

5. Water may be used for the cleaning of new and used cars that are part of a dealer's sales inventory in accordance with restrictions contained in the regulations.

6. Water may be used by professional mobile wash businesses as part of normal business practices.

PROHIBITED

EXCEPTIONS

7. Water may be used by nonprofit service organizations or clubs for fundraising activities by means of bucket or by hand-held hose with automatic shutoff nozzle for pre-rinse and rinse, not to exceed a total of two minutes spray time per vehicle.

Serving water in eating or drinking places.

1. Water can be served only if requested by a customer.

Filling and topping off swimming pools.

1. Water can be used for public swimming pools and residential swimming pools serving 25 or more dwelling units, if the pools have filtration equipment allowing for continued use and recycling of water over the swimming season.
2. Water can be used for swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation.
3. Water can be used for other pools only if approved by the public water supply system from which the water is withdrawn. If water is obtained from other sources, permission from the owner of the source is required.

Use of any water that is not for a beneficial use.

No exceptions.

* Effective Conservation – Use of water at the minimum rate necessary for the intended purpose, in a manner that does not result in the use of water for purposes that are prohibited by Chapter 119 regulations and in a manner that does not allow application or runoff of water onto areas that are prohibited by Chapter 119 regulations.

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the PA PowerPort at <http://www.state.pa.us> or visit DEP directly at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (directLINK "Drought").



www.GreenWorks.tv - A web space dedicated to helping you learn how to protect and improve the environment. The site features the largest collection of environmental videos available on the Internet and is produced by the nonprofit Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania, with financial support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 877-PA-GREEN.