



## Water Restriction Quick Guide for Citizens of Sarasota County

June 2012

*These restrictions apply to all unincorporated Sarasota County Only. The City of Venice, City of North Port, City of Sarasota and the portion of Englewood Water District within Sarasota County may have different requirements.*

*All restrictions guidelines are determined by the Southwest Florida Water Management District with the exception of the allowable irrigation days which are set by the Sarasota County Commission. Residents and visitors are required to comply with all water restrictions. Violators may be subject to fines without warning.*

### **LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION** (in effect since January 2007)

Irrigation restrictions apply to any irrigation system using water from a utility, well, lake, pond or canals. Irrigation systems include automatic in-ground systems and sprinklers connected to garden hoses. These restrictions do not apply to reuse/reclaimed (sewer effluent) water or micro-irrigation system which may have different restrictions.

- No irrigation is allowed at any time on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.  
Irrigation is allowed on the following days, one time per irrigation zone per day:  
**Tuesdays** - Even numbered building addresses (numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8), addresses ending in A through M, and common areas (medians, recreational areas or other areas with no address).  
**Thursdays** - Odd numbered building addresses (numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) and addresses ending in letters N through Z.  
*Note: The above irrigation schedule differs from other areas in the district, as is established by local ordinances.*
- Irrigation is prohibited between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on any allowable day.
- Property owners should ensure irrigation timers and run times do not extend past midnight on their allowable watering day. Timers should be adjusted for daylight savings time when it begins and ends.
- Excessive water running off of property is prohibited, including sprinklers spraying into street or other non-landscaped area.
- Irrigation is only allowed one time per zone per allowable watering day.
- All irrigation systems are required by state laws to have a rain sensor or other technology which overrides irrigation when there is sufficient moisture. As such, an irrigation system operating during or soon after a substantial rainfall is prohibited by county code and subject to an immediate \$100 (plus court fee) citation.

### **MISCELLANEOUS WATER USES**

Wasting water, such as allowing hoses to run without a shut-off nozzle, leaking hoses and leaks that are not repaired, are prohibited.

### **NEW LAWNS/SOD & PLANTS**

**On the first day of installation only**, new lawns may be irrigated any time of day and any day of the week. After the first day, new lawns may be irrigated any day for another 29 days, before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. On days 31 through 60, new lawns may be irrigated up to 3 times a week, before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

New lawns/plantings must be at least 50 percent of the area being irrigated. Areas less than 50 percent must comply with hand watering instructions stated below.

### **HAND WATERING OF LAWNS/SOD, PLANTS**

Hand watering hanging baskets, or gardens and other non-lawn plant material is allowed any day of the week and any time. Hand watering of lawns is allowed but only on the allowable day or for a special need, such as application of fertilizer or pest control. All hand watering by a hose requires the use of a shut-off nozzle.

### **MICRO-IRRIGATION**

Micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day, and at any time.

**VARIANCES**

Properties with a valid variance are subject to all conditions of their variance and must comply with the irrigation times stated above. Properties needing to apply for a variance can obtain an application at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/restrictions/swfwmd.html> or call SWFWMD at (800) 423-1476. Sarasota County and the municipalities **do not** currently issue variances.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEM TESTING/MAINTENANCE**

Irrigation systems can be tested anytime of day and any day of the week, but the customer or the contractor must be present. The system can run only as long as it takes to test irrigation heads for proper spray and time.

**PRESSURE WASHING**

Pressure washing and other water-based outdoor cleaning is allowed for any reason but should generally be used for the following reasons:

- 1) Pressure washing a building or other structure in preparation of painting.
- 2) Annual pressure washing of a building, if needed to maintain a paint warranty.
- 3) Cleaning streets before or after a parade.
- 4) Annual pressure washing of a driveway, sidewalk and other impervious surface to prevent a “slip and fall” hazard.
- 5) Pressure washing or otherwise cleaning a driveway, sidewalk or other impervious surface to remove an existing “slip and fall” hazard.
- 6) Pressure washing a driveway, sidewalk or other impervious surface in preparation for sealing or painting.

**CAR WASHING**

Car washing at home, using a hose and shut-off nozzle, is allowed. It should be done on a grassy area to prevent run off.

**FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES**

Aesthetic fountains and other water features may operate any time with no restrictions.

**FERTILIZER AND PEST CONTROL APPLICATIONS**

Watering of fertilizer and pest control applications, based on the manufacturer’s instructions, is allowed. The professional applicator must post temporary signs with the date of application and the date(s) of needed watering.

**FILLING OF LAKES BY A WELL (Water Body Augmentation)**

Filling of a lake or pond by a well is prohibited, unless regulated by a water-use permit or Environmental Resource Permit. Other special restrictions may also apply.

**LARGE/COMMERCIAL USERS**

Some large users such as golf courses, plant nurseries or other high volume water users may have separate requirements and therefore may have different irrigation schedules.

**ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS**

In unincorporated Sarasota County any violation witnessed by a code enforcement agent may result in a minimum \$100 citation (plus court fee). Enforcement actions may vary in the City of Venice, City of Sarasota, City of North Port and the City of Venice.

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| <b>Contact information:</b>                 |                |  |
| Sarasota County (unincorporated)            | 941-861-5000   | <a href="http://www.scgov.net">www.scgov.net</a>                     |
| City of Sarasota                            | 941-365-2200   | <a href="http://www.sarasotagov.com">www.sarasotagov.com</a>         |
| City of North Port                          | 941-240-8000   | <a href="http://www.cityofnorthport.com">www.cityofnorthport.com</a> |
| City of Venice                              | 941-480-3333   | <a href="http://www.venicegov.com">www.venicegov.com</a>             |
| Englewood Water District                    | 941-474-3217   | <a href="http://www.inglewoodwater.com">www.inglewoodwater.com</a>   |
| Southwest Florida Water Management District | 1-800-423-1476 | <a href="http://www.watermatters.org">www.watermatters.org</a>       |