

Water Conservation Ordinance

Know Your Watering Days



Questions & Answers

Q: What days and hours am I allowed to water with sprinklers?

- A: Outdoor watering with sprinklers is restricted to three days a week with different watering days assigned to odd-numbered and even-numbered street addresses.
- Customers with odd-numbered street addresses – ending in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 – are allowed to use their sprinkler systems on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - Customers with even-numbered street addresses – ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 – are allowed to use their sprinkler systems on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

All outdoor watering is only allowed before 9:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m., regardless of the watering day.

Q: How long am I allowed to run my sprinklers?

- A: Watering with sprinklers is limited to one cycle of up to 8 minutes per station per watering day for non-conserving nozzle sprinkler systems (typical residential system), or two 15-minute cycles per watering day for conserving nozzle sprinkler systems.

Q: My address ends in a fraction. What days am I allowed to water with sprinklers?

- A: Addresses ending in fractions are treated as the last whole number in the address and observe the same day restrictions as others on their same side of the street (i.e.: 4321 ½ is regarded as 4321, an odd-numbered address).

Q: What days am I allowed to water by hand?

- A: Watering by hand is allowed any day of the week, before 9:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. The Water Conservation Ordinance requires that you use a self-closing water shutoff nozzle on your hose when watering outdoors.

Q: Has “Mandatory Water Conservation” been successful?

- A: Yes! Since June 2009 when the City enacted the Ordinance and launched Mandatory Water Conservation, LADWP customers have reduced their water use by 18%. The amount of water saved in Los Angeles—more than 141 billion gallons—is enough to serve the cities of Burbank, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Glendale, and Anaheim combined for two years.

Q: Is this really necessary even if it rained in Los Angeles earlier this year?

- A: Yes, it is necessary. Rain in Los Angeles is not a real factor in terms of our city’s water supply since most of our water—88% last year—is imported from external sources. Water supply shortages are a continuous threat across California and much of the West.

Q: Can I apply for an exemption from the Ordinance?

- A: Customers may apply for a Hardship Variance from specific Ordinance requirements. Variance Instructions and Forms are online at www.LADWP.com/WaterConservation and at all LADWP Customer Service Center locations.

Q: What other uses of water does the Water Conservation Ordinance prohibit?

- A: Prohibited uses of water, which apply to all phases of the Ordinance and all LADWP customers, include:
- Watering of any hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas unless flushing is needed to protect health and safety;
 - Outdoor watering between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.;
 - Outdoor watering during periods of rain;
 - Allowing runoff onto streets and gutters from excessive watering;
 - Allowing leaks from any pipe or fixture to go unrepaired;
 - Washing vehicles without using a hose with a self-closing water shut-off nozzle;
 - Serving water to customers in restaurants unless requested;
 - Using water to clean, fill or maintain decorative fountains unless the water is part of a recirculating system;
 - Installing single-pass cooling systems in new buildings;
 - Installing non-recirculating systems in new car wash and commercial laundry systems; and
 - Allowing large landscape areas to be watered without rain sensors that shut off irrigation systems.

The Ordinance also requires that hotel and motel operators provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily.