



City of Spirit Lake outdoor watering restrictions

The City of Spirit Lake has implemented new outside water use restrictions. Unlike past voluntary restrictions, these new rules are mandatory and non-compliance could result in a fine for violators.

The new mandatory water use restrictions emphasize conservation. They are geared to assist the city in meeting the additional demands for water. The new rules **prohibit watering of lawns daily** between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and **enact a mandatory odd-even watering program** throughout the community. Exceptions for new sod and other specialized areas are allowed.

Rules

Spirit Lake outdoor watering conservation rules include the following provisions:

MIDDAY WATERING BAN All outdoor watering, including irrigation systems is not allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.

ODD-EVEN SPRINKLING - Odd-even restrictions allow residential and business addresses that end in an odd number (1,3,5,7,9) to water only on days that end in an odd number and those with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) to water only on days that end in an even number.

NOTE: Multi-family residences or businesses with multiple addresses, or where a structure does not have an apparent address, the site should water on odd-numbered days. Also, properties with irrigation systems that cannot water their entire site on a single day, the system should be set to water one-half of the site each day, but not water more than once every other day. Residents and businesses with this situation should notify the city to receive approval prior to implementing this watering system. **EXCEPTIONS:** Exceptions to odd-even and midday watering restrictions include lawns with new seed, new sod or new landscaping, plant materials that require daily watering such as trees, flower pots and baskets, and vegetable gardens.

These restrictions allow for lawn quality to be maintained while removing midday watering which results in inefficient watering and a waste of resources. In addition, demand for water resources is more evenly spread out.

Fee Program

The City stresses voluntary compliance; however, the following fees for non-compliance will be assessed and included in non-complying customers' water bill:

- First Offense: warning
- Second Offense: \$25
- Third Offense: \$50
- Fourth Offense: \$100

Fifth and beyond: \$250

A door knocker and a letter will be provided to customers on each documented incident of non-compliance.

See back of this page for Tips and Information

Outdoor Watering Tips

Water only when your lawn needs water. A good rule of thumb to follow is to step on your lawn, if it starts to spring back it doesn't need water. If the grass lays flat it is time to water.

Experts agree that watering a maximum of every other day is sufficient for strong, healthy lawns.

Irrigation systems should be set to water between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., the healthiest time to water lawns.

When using a hose and sprinkler system, water lawns between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when the sun is down and wind levels have dropped. This offers the least evaporation possible.

Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Water that runs down the street is wasted.

Reducing the demand on the city's water system allow Spirit Lake greater flexibility in meeting the demands and ensures adequate resources in the event of a fire. For more information about the Water Conservation Program, please call the Spirit Lake **Water Department** at 712-336-2127 or visit our website at www.cityofspiritlake.org