



## **Water Conservation Plan Restrictions**

The City of Howe has implemented a Water Conservation Plan that includes year-round restrictions for outdoor watering. The restrictions allow Howe property owners to irrigate outdoors twice a week during the Spring/Summer months and one day a week during the wetter Fall/Winter months.

### **Lawn Irrigation Schedule (April 1 through October 31)**

| <u>Last digit of address</u> | <u>Allowed Landscape Watering Days</u>               |
|------------------------------|--|
| 0,2,4,6,8 (Even)             | Tuesday and Friday each week<br>(6 p.m. to 10 a.m.)  |
| 1,3,5,7,9 (Odd)              | Monday and Thursday each week<br>(6 p.m. to 10 a.m.) |

### **Lawn Irrigation Schedule (November 1 through March 31)**

| <u>Last digit of address</u> | <u>Allowed Landscape Watering Days</u>    |
|------------------------------|---|
| 0,2,4,6,8 (Even)             | Tuesday each week<br>(6 p.m. to 10 a.m.)  |
| 1,3,5,7,9 (Odd)              | Thursday each week<br>(6 p.m. to 10 a.m.) |

### **Additional Restrictions:**

- No lawn irrigation is allowed between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. or during times of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, etc.).
- Excessive water runoff from any landscaped area is prohibited.
- Excessive runoff or irrigating impervious surfaces is prohibited.

### **Exemptions – The Following Water Usage Is Exempt from Restrictions:**

- Use of drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses to protect foundations is allowed. Recommended maximum 2 hours when needed and not during periods of precipitation.
- Hand watering of ornamental flower beds and other ornamental landscaping is allowed.
- The operation of ornamental fountains is permitted.



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- Washing of vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. is permitted only where a “shut off nozzle” of some reliable type exists so that one can manually turn the water off.
- Newly constructed swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and spas may be filled.
- Pools may be drained and refilled for repairs as needed (must follow proper drainage methods).
- Existing swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and spas may be replenished to maintain operational levels.
- Use of commercial full-service or self-service car wash facilities, including those at service stations and automobile dealership facilities is permitted.
- Washing or hosing down of sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas or other similar paved surfaces is permitted by hand held device where shut off nozzle exists.
- Activities utilizing other sources of water (reclaim water, natural springs, ponds or deep water wells) are permitted.
- Golf courses may water greens and tee boxes as needed.

### **Variations – The Following Water Usage Can Apply For Variations To These Restrictions:**

- **Large Properties**

A variance may be granted if it can be demonstrated that one inch of precipitation cannot be applied in the two allotted days per week during allowed watering hours in a single day, allowing for an extra day for watering (Wednesday) during the allotted timeframe of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Examples of a large property would include, but are not exclusive to, golf courses (public and private), large school or business campuses, athletic fields (public and private), parks (public and private), and large common areas (apartments, town homes, etc.). The irrigation system in use on the property must be operating in a manner that complies with City Ordinance.

If a variance is granted, a Temporary Water Use Variance Permit will be administered. The property owner must post the Permit at the property listed on the Permit in a location viewable by City staff and the public.

- **Newly-Installed Landscapes**

Those installing lawns and landscapes may apply for a variance to allow an additional watering day (Wednesday) during the allotted timeframe of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. for no longer than 30 days after the installation of new landscape. If a variance is granted, a Temporary Water Use Variance Permit will be administered. The property owner must post the Permit at the property listed on the Permit in a location viewable by City Staff and the public.



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- **Special Circumstances**

Variances may be granted for other special circumstances, if it is determined that extenuating circumstances/extreme hardship exist, and the failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, safety or welfare of the public or the person requesting the variance. Extra watering timeframe will be determined on case by case basis depending upon the condition. If a variance is granted, a Temporary Water Use Variance Permit will be administered. The property owner must post the Permit at the property listed on the Permit in a location viewable by City Staff and the public.

Granting of any variance must not cause an immediate significant reduction in the city's water supply or affect the health, safety, or welfare of other persons.

Variance applications are available at City Hall or on the website.

The City's Water Conservation Plan is part of a larger collective effort to preserve water resources in the rapidly growing north Texas region.

### **Enforcement:**

City Staff will canvass neighborhoods and commercial areas to identify violations as well as respond to citizen complaints, which upon receipt will be dispatched to staff in the field for investigation/action.

The following efforts will be performed for those found in violation of these restrictions:

Conservation Enforcement Penalties

The following enforcement penalty measures may be imposed by the City of Howe for all water restriction and conservation violations:

**First Offense..... Warning**

**Second Offense..... \$150 Citation**

**Third Offense..... \$250 Citation**

**Fourth Offense..... \$500 Citation plus Disconnection of service until corrected.**

*Every day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.*

### **Reporting Water Abuse:**

Residents are encouraged to report violations by calling (903) 532-5571.

