



TOWN OF WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**WATER & SEWER DIVISION**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DPW Issues Additional Outdoor Water Use Restrictions *for All Customers***

**April 18, 2025 (Wellesley, MA)** – The Wellesley Department of Public Works (DPW) needs your help to comply with new regulations and has issued outdoor water use restrictions, effective April 15, 2025.

The new restrictions include a **mandatory** one-day per week outdoor watering schedule for homes and businesses and a ban on non-essential outdoor watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Complete details are included below.

According to DPW officials, the State has been in a drought for many months and on April 8, 2025 declared a Level 1 – Mild Drought in our region. Due to state regulations now in effect, non-essential outdoor water use is now limited to one-day per week. The previous 3-day per week alternate day restrictions are no longer allowed under the new regulations.

“Although conditions have been improving in recent weeks, the lack of rain over the past year has resulted in lower than normal stream flows and ground water levels in our region. These new restrictions will keep us in compliance with state regulations, and also help ensure that we can provide enough water for everyday use including health, safety and fire-fighting needs,” said DPW Director Dave Cohen.

**Outdoor Water Use One-Day per week Restrictions**

Based upon street address numbers, **nonessential** outdoor water use IS ALLOWED according to the following schedule:

- **Odd** numbered addresses are restricted to **Tuesdays**.
- **Even** numbered addresses are restricted to **Fridays**.
- Nonessential outdoor use of water on all other days is prohibited.

**Nonessential outdoor watering hours are restricted to before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.** Outdoor watering is prohibited between 9 and 5 to help avoid loss of water through evaporation.

**Essential** uses of water include:

- For health and safety reasons
- Irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings between the months of May and September
- Agricultural operations to maintain livestock and crops and vegetable gardens

- Irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose
- To meet the core functions to the commercial operations of a business
- Irrigation of public trees and parks, schools, and recreational fields
- Hydrant flushing to maintain water systems and improve water quality

**Nonessential** uses include:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or concrete

All water customers are urged to set irrigation systems and timers to ensure watering takes place on the allowed days and times. Customers are also encouraged to consider rain gauges and sensors to avoid over watering. One inch of watering per week is sufficient to promote deep root growth for a healthy and drought resistant lawn.

Initial enforcement activities will focus on notices, education and awareness. However, if needed, violations are subject to a \$50 fine for the first violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation.

Visit the DPW webpages for more information on drought status, restrictions, and [water conservation](#). The Natural Resources Commission also offers tips for [healthy and sustainable lawn and landscape care](#).

Contact the Water Division at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov) or at 781-235-7600 x3355 if you have any questions.

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