



WATER SHORTAGE IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS

In an effort to combat a limited water supply, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has prohibited replacement and other renovation actions for lawns in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties and placed additional restrictions on micro- and low-volume irrigation and fountain operation.

These additional restrictions are in effect until June 30. Here is how water users within unincorporated Hillsborough County are affected:

I'm building a house. Does this mean I can't water my new lawn?

The ban does not apply to new construction. New lawns may be watered any day for 30 days and every other day for the next 30 days (even addresses on even numbered days and odd addresses on odd numbered days). After that, you must comply with your regular weekly watering day.

What if I have already contracted to have my lawn replaced?

The new rule does not apply to lawns that were under contract by Oct. 28, even if work has not started. But you will need to show a valid, signed contract.

What if my sod is pest infested or has other issues that require it to be replaced?

Establishment irrigation for renovation turf will not be exempted from Hillsborough County's one-day-a-week rule. If new turf is installed under these conditions, it may only be irrigation on the proper irrigation day during permitted irrigation hours. Otherwise, you may elect to postpone the renovation or to choose replacement plant materials other than grass.

What are the restrictions on micro-irrigation and low-volume irrigation? Do these new rules apply to hand watering?

Micro-irrigation or other low-volume irrigation, including hand watering, of non-turf landscaping is prohibited between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day.

What about fountains?

The District rule imposes a four-hour-a-day maximum run time on aesthetic fountains in areas in the region where they were not previously restricted and requires posting of the hours of operation at the aesthetic water feature.

Will I get a warning if I'm violating in any of those new areas?

No. On Nov. 28, 2008, Hillsborough County will begin issuing citations upon first observance of these new restrictions imposed regionally by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The County already issues citations upon first observance of restrictions detailed in the County Ordinance 03-07, as amended.

If these new restrictions imposed by the District are not listed in the County's ordinance, how can the County enforce them?

Enforcement of these additional restrictions is required as a result of Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Order 08-044. Section 2 of Hillsborough County Ordinance 03-07, as amended provides for the inclusion within the ordinance of any rules, regulations or orders issued by the District that are more stringent than the restrictions included in the ordinance.



Tampa Water Department

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In an effort to combat a limited water supply, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has prohibited replacement and other renovation actions for lawns in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties and placed additional restrictions on micro- and low-volume irrigation and fountain operation.

These additional restrictions are in effect until June 30. Here is how water users inside Tampa City limits will be affected:

I'm building a house. Does this mean I can't water my new lawn?

The ban does not apply to new construction. New lawns can be watered every day for 15 days and every other day for the next 15 days (even addresses on even numbered days and odd addresses on odd numbered days). After that, you must comply with your regular weekly watering day.

What if I have already contracted to have my lawn replaced?

The new rule does not apply to lawns that were under contract by Oct. 28, even if work has not started. But you will need to show a valid, signed contract.

What if my sod is pest infested or has other issues that require it to be replaced?

Establishment irrigation for renovation turf will not be exempted from Tampa's one-day-a-week rule. If new turf is installed under these conditions, it may only be irrigation on the proper irrigation day during permitted irrigation hours. Otherwise, you may elect to postpone the renovation or to choose replacement plant materials other than grass.

What are the restrictions on micro-irrigation and low-volume irrigation? Do these new rules apply to hand watering?

Micro-irrigation or other low-volume irrigation, including hand watering, of non-turf landscaping is prohibited between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day.

What about fountains? I thought fountains were prohibited in Tampa.

The operation of aesthetic fountains inside Tampa City limits is prohibited. That prohibition has been in place since May 2006. The District rule imposes a four-hour-a-day maximum run time on aesthetic fountains in other areas in the region where they were not previously restricted and extended that four-hour-a-day maximum run time to non-aesthetic fountains providing a water quality or other environmental benefit, too. The operation of non-aesthetic fountains was not previously restricted.

Will I get a warning if I'm violating in any of those new areas?

No. On Nov. 28, 2008, the City of Tampa will begin issuing citations upon first observance of these new restrictions imposed regionally by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The City already issues citations upon first observance of restrictions detailed in the City ordinance – 2006-104.

If these new restrictions imposed by the District are not listed in Tampa's ordinance, how can the City enforce them?

Enforcement of these additional restrictions is required as a result of Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Order 08-044. Paragraph C(d) of City of Tampa Ordinance 2006-104 provides for the inclusion within the ordinance of any rules, regulations or orders issued by the District that are more stringent than the restrictions included in the ordinance.