



What's New & Information

Summer Watering Program

Every year from May to September, you should see “Summer Watering Program” signs posted throughout the District and probably ask yourself why they’re there, what they mean, and where they came from. The District is subject to a Water Management Act permit, which allows us to withdraw water from our wells, that comes with strict water conservation requirements.

Between May 1 and September 30 of each year, the District must post these signs consistent with the drought level in effect for the region. The purpose of these signs is to alert the public of ongoing drought conditions and subsequent restrictions on outdoor water use.

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Backflow Prevention: Hoses

Upcoming Pilot Study

Water Conservation Tips

Detecting Toilet Leaks

Backflow Prevention: Hoses

Whether you’re hooking up a hose to fill your pool, wash your car, or water your plants, never submerge your hose in a bucket, pool, drain, bathtub, sink, or mixture containing chemicals. If backflow happens when your hose is submerged in another mixture, without the proper backflow prevention, that mixture could end up being pulled backwards into your internal plumbing.

Additionally, make sure to install a hose bibb vacuum breaker onto any threaded connection. You do not need a plumber to install one; you can buy one at a hardware store and simply screw it on to the threaded connection.

Did you know?

According to the EPA, nearly 97% of the world’s water is salty or otherwise undrinkable, 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers, and only 1% is available to us!

Upcoming Pilot Study

The District has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to proceed with a pilot study that will focus on additional, long-term PFAS removal as part of our water treatment process. While the District currently has granular activated carbon (GAC), an approved method for PFAS removal, GAC was intended for chlorite removal at the time the water treatment plant was designed; now that PFAS and its subsequent removal methods are better understood, the District is seeking an improved PFAS removal process that also extends the lifespan of the GAC and removes short-chain PFAS compounds (GAC is not as effective at removing compared to long-chain PFAS compounds).

The goal of the study is to assess whether additional PFAS removal methods would be viable and beneficial to the existing treatment process. No public water system is authorized to make significant changes to the water treatment process without MassDEP’s review and approval, and so the pilot study is necessary to continue the District’s mission of providing safe drinking water.

The District continues to monitor PFAS on a quarterly basis and posts PFAS6 (the six currently regulated PFAS compounds) results online when made available.



Water Conservation Tips

Not just for summer-there are ways to reduce your water consumption all year round!

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

When in Drought or Not – Please Do Your Part!

OUTDOOR WATER USE









1 LIMIT LAWN WATERING, ESPECIALLY DURING A DROUGHT¹
 Lawns naturally go dormant during dry conditions. They'll revive when conditions improve.

- If you are in a region at Drought Level 3, **Critical Drought** (Severe Drought Conditions) or Drought Level 4, **Emergency Drought**: Do not water your lawn.
- If you are in a region at Drought Level 2, **Significant Drought** (Moderate to Severe Drought): Limit watering to hand-held only or drip irrigation. Water after 5PM or before 9AM to avoid evaporative losses.
- If you are in a region at Drought Level 1, **Mild Drought** (Abnormally Dry Conditions): Limit watering to 1 day per week at most. Water after 5PM or before 9AM.

2 MINIMIZE LANDSCAPE WATER NEEDS THROUGH WATER-SMART LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES²

- Maintain healthy soils (a minimum of 6-inches in depth, where possible).
- Choose native plants or plants and turf that need less water.
- Use mulch to reduce evaporation and moderate soil temperature.
- Leave grass clippings on lawn to shade and return nutrients to soil.

3 MINIMIZE YOUR USE OF WATER OUTDOORS

- Sweep driveways, walks, patios, and other outdoor areas with a broom rather than hosing them off.
- Wash vehicles using a bucket and sponge, employing a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinse only, or, if available, use a commercial car wash that recycles water (most do).
- Cover swimming pools when not in use to prevent evaporation.

INDOOR WATER USE



1. Choose high-efficiency plumbing products and appliances (look for the WaterSense or Energy Star labels).



2. Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving: "Never Let the Water Run."



3. Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less) and use water-saving showerheads.



4. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.



5. Fix leaks! Dripping faucets and leaking toilets, pipes, and appliances can add up to hundreds of gallons of water lost per week.



6. Create a kitchen compost bin instead of using the garbage disposal.



7. Collect and reuse clean household water (water running while you wait for hot water to reach your faucet or shower; leftover water from cooking, etc.) and use this to water plants.

1 Certain water uses are not subject to mandatory restrictions, such as water used: for health or safety reasons; for the production of food and fiber; for the maintenance of livestock; to meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).

2 Adapted from Water-Smart Landscapes Start with WaterSense (EPA WaterSense)

To check your drought region and status go to: mass.gov/ma-drought-management



Detecting Toilet Leaks

According to the EPA, a stuck fill valve in a toilet can waste 4,300 gallons water per day (if we assume 183 days for a 6-month billing period, that's 786,900 gallons *just* for a leaking toilet-not including your other usage). Fortunately, there's an easy way to check for toilet leaks using dye tablets or food coloring:

HOW TO FIND A TOILET LEAK

STEP 1
Open the toilet tank.

STEP 2
Release dye tablet or 5 drops of food coloring.

STEP 3
Don't use the toilet for 15-20* minutes. Check the toilet bowl for any signs of the dye.

IF YOU SEE COLOR, YOU HAVE A LEAK!

MASS.GOV/CONSERVEMAWATER

*To check for slower leaks, wait overnight.