

2002 DROUGHT EMERGENCY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

In compliance with the Drought Emergency declaration by Governor Mark Schweiker on February 12, 2002, the following water use restrictions are in effect and enforceable by local law enforcement agencies. The information provided in this factsheet is a partial listing of the restrictions as excerpted from the Chapter 119, Volume IV of the Pennsylvania Code and is provided for general public information only. Full text of the regulations can be found at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (directLINK "Drought").

WATER-USE RESTRICTIONS: *RESIDENTIAL WATER USE*

The use of water for watering grass is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Newly seeded or sodded grass can be watered during the hours of 5pm to 9am using a bucket, can, or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off.

Use of fresh water for irrigation and watering of outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Farm irrigation – the production of food and fiber or maintenance of livestock and poultry.
- Water may be applied during the hours of 5pm to 9am using a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off, or an irrigation system which restricts timing and application to specific plantings.

Use of any water for washing paved surfaces, such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, patios, parking areas, tennis courts, decks and patios is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water can be used for prewashing in preparation for recoating and sealing a paved surface.
- Tennis courts composed of clay or similar materials can be watered by means of a bucket, can or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

Use of any water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls and ponds is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water can be used to maintain fish and aquatic life.

Use of any water for washing or cleaning of mobile equipment, including automobiles, trucks, buses, trailers, carts, wagons, railroad cars, campers and boats is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- An individual may wash personally owned or leased vehicles with buckets or by hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle for prerinse and rinse, not to exceed a total of two minutes spray time. Water use is limited to odd street addresses on first and third Saturdays of the month and even or no street addresses on second and fourth Saturdays of the month.
- Cars may be washed for fundraising activities using buckets or by hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle for prerinse and rinse, not to exceed a total of two minutes spray time.

Filling and topping off swimming pools is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water can be used for single family pools only if approved by the public water supply system from which the water is withdrawn. If water is obtained from other sources, permission from the owner of the source is required.
- Wading pools may be filled. It is recommended that the water be emptied onto gardens and landscaping.

For further information contact:

Chester County Water Resources Authority (610-344-5400) www.chesco.org/water

Chester County Health Department (610-344-6225)

Chester County Department of Emergency Services (610-344-5000)

Chester County Conservation District (610-696-5126)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (directLINK "Drought").

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WATER-USE RESTRICTIONS: *COMMERCIAL AND SCHOOL WATER USE*

The use of water for watering grass and outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Any sewage or stormwater treatment system that is utilizing spray irrigation which has been approved by PA-DEP prior to the Drought Emergency.
- A professional landscaper may water newly seeded or sodded grass areas during regular working hours by any means designed and operated to ensure effective conservation.
- A professional landscaper or irrigation contractor can use water for testing newly installed or repaired irrigation equipment, not to exceed 15 minutes per zone.
- Water can be used for grub control, not to exceed one application during the Drought Emergency.
- Water used by nurseries to maintain stock, by a means that ensures effective conservation when sources other than fresh water are not feasible.
- Water used by public gardens of national, state or regional significance or arboretums to preserve specimens by a means that ensures effective conservation when sources other than fresh water are not feasible.
- Water can be used where required under an erosion and sedimentation plan.

Use of any water for watering athletic fields is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Grass tennis courts can be watered by means of a bucket, can or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, or by means of an irrigation system designed and operated to restrict the timing or total volume of water, when applied between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- Athletic field grass areas, other than sand-based, can be watered between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., one night per calendar week, in accordance with a schedule submitted to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, local law enforcement agency and, if applicable, to the public water supply company
- Sand-based athletic fields can be watered in accordance with a plan approved by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator.
- Watering of non-grass areas of school athletic fields is prohibited.

Use of any water for watering golf courses is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Greens, tees and fairways can be watered in accordance with a plan approved by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, between the hours of 5pm and 10am
- Water can be used by means of a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, to syringe heat sensitive grasses on tees, greens and fairways, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., not to exceed 15 minutes on any grass area.

Use of any water for washing paved surfaces, such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, patios, parking areas, tennis courts, decks and patios is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water can be used for sanitation of the premises of raw or processed food, pharmaceutical or vaccine processing, storage or vending establishments, including restaurants and grocery stores.
- Water can be used for sanitation of the premises of waste handling, storage and disposal facilities.
- Water can be used to comply with permit conditions or other regulatory requirements.

Use of any water for washing or cleaning of mobile equipment, including automobiles, trucks, buses, trailers, carts, wagons, railroad cars, campers and boats is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water may be used by commercial car washes at the minimum rate necessary to ensure an effective wash.
- Water may be used for cleaning of construction, emergency, public transportation or government vehicles if necessary to preserve the proper functioning and safe operation of the vehicle.
- Water may be used for the cleaning of new and used cars that are part of a dealer's sales inventory in preparation for sale, no more than once every 7 days. Washing is limited to odd street addresses on Tuesdays and even or no street addresses on Wednesdays.

Filling and topping off swimming pools is prohibited. Exceptions include:

- Water can be used for public swimming pools and residential swimming pools serving 25 or more dwelling units, if the pools have filtration equipment allowing for continued use and recycling of water over the swimming season.
- Water can be used for swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation.