

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

EMERGENCY

Water Conservation Plan

WHEN WATER SYSTEM STORAGE LEVELS BECOME VERY LOW, THE EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION PLAN IS DESIGNED TO CONSERVE TREATED DRINKING WATER FOR ESSENTIAL USES.

UNDER THE PLAN, CERTAIN TYPES OF WATER USE ARE PROHIBITED BY CITY OF SPRINGFIELD GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 5686, AND THE COST OF WATER USE INCREASES.



STAGE ONE – WATER SHORTAGE:

Begins when stored water volume is equal to or less than 60 percent of lake storage capacity. This stage is designed to accomplish an overall system reduction in water consumption of 15 percent.

It is unlawful for customers and users to violate the following:

- Irrigation of lawns and landscaped areas is limited to midnight to 6 a.m. on Sundays for all customers with a street address ending in an even number, and midnight to 6 a.m. on Saturdays for all water customers with a street address ending in an odd number.
- ⊗ No washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, buildings, gutters, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas; no operation of any ornamental fountain or pond except where necessary to support aquatic life.
- ⊗ No filling or refilling of any and all swimming, wading, or hot tub pools except between 8 p.m. and midnight on Sundays for all customers with a street address ending in an even number, and between 8 p.m. and midnight on Saturdays for all water customers with a street address ending in an odd number.
- ⊗ No noncommercial washing of motor vehicles, trailers or boats, except from a bucket on designated water days between 6 and 8 a.m. or 8 and 10 p.m.
- ⊗ No use of water for dust control.
- ⊗ No flushing of mains by City Utilities personnel, except to alleviate individual water quality problems.
- ⊗ No use of water from a fire hydrant, except for fighting fires, for human consumption, or for necessary watering of animals.

- The use of permanently installed automatic irrigation systems is limited to twenty (20) minutes per zone or area for pop-up fixed spray sprinklers and forty-five (45) minutes per zone or area for pop-up rotary-type sprinklers, only on designated water days and times.
- Irrigation of lawn and landscaped areas is permitted any day of the week for 45 minutes between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, drip irrigation system, or hose-end sprinkler.
- ⊗ Spraying of water on sidewalks, streets, and other paved areas is prohibited.
- ⊗ No eating establishment shall serve water except upon specific request and shall display notice to that effect.

CITY UTILITIES' "EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WATER SERVICE RATE" TAKES EFFECT WITH THE NEXT COMPLETE BILLING FOR EACH CUSTOMER. UNDER THIS RATE SCHEDULE, PER-UNIT CHARGES FOR WATER USE ARE ABOUT 18 PERCENT HIGHER.

STAGE ONE ENDS WHEN THE STORED WATER VOLUME EQUALS AT LEAST 65 PERCENT OF CAPACITY, OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE ONE HAVE SUFFICIENTLY MODERATED OR BEEN ELIMINATED.



STAGE TWO – WATER EMERGENCY:

Begins when stored water volume is equal to or less than 55 percent of capacity and/or stage one has not accomplished a 15 percent reduction in water consumption. Stage two is intended to accomplish an overall system reduction in water consumption of 20 percent. **Restrictions of stage one remain in effect, except as modified below.**

It is unlawful for customers and users to violate the following:

- ⊗ The use of permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems and hose end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- ⊗ Filling or refilling of any and all swimming, wading, or hot tub pools is prohibited. Using water for recreational purposes such as water slides or yard play is prohibited.
- ⊗ Noncommercial washing of vehicles is prohibited.
- ⊗ All users (including the City of Springfield and City Utilities) must consume no more than 75 percent of the usage during the corresponding billing period in the year prior to implementation of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan.

CITY UTILITIES' "EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WATER SERVICE RATE" REMAINS APPLICABLE, AND ADDITIONALLY, THE RATE INCLUDES A SURCHARGE FOR EXCESSIVE USE OF WATER. EXCESSIVE USE IS, GENERALLY, MORE THAN 75 PERCENT OF THE USAGE FOR THE SAME BILLING PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE SURCHARGE APPLIES ADDITIONALLY TO VOLUMES EXCEEDING THE 75 PERCENT THRESHOLD, AND THE PER-UNIT CHARGES ARE THEN INCREASED BY ABOUT 400 PERCENT OR MORE. RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS USING FOUR HUNDRED CUBIC FEET (FOUR CCF) PER MONTH OR LESS ARE NOT CHARGED THE SURCHARGE.

STAGE TWO ENDS WHEN THE STORED WATER VOLUME HAS RETURNED TO 60 PERCENT OF CAPACITY, OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE TWO HAVE SUFFICIENTLY MODERATED OR BEEN ELIMINATED. STAGE TWO MAY REVERT TO STAGE ONE, OR BE TERMINATED.

STAGE THREE – WATER CRISIS:

Stage three is effective when stored water volume is equal to or less than 50 percent of capacity, and/or stage two has not accomplished a 20 percent reduction in water consumption. Stage three is intended to accomplish an overall system reduction in water consumption of 25 percent. **All requirements of stages one and two remain in effect, except as modified below:**

It is unlawful for customers and users to engage in any of the following:

- ⊗ Washing of motor vehicles, trailers or boats is prohibited.
- ⊗ Watering of any lawn, garden, or landscaped area is prohibited. Trees, shrubs, and plants may be watered from a handheld container.
- ⊗ No application for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains or water service facilities that fall under a building permit applied for after implementation of stage three is approved until circumstances requiring implementation of stage three have sufficiently moderated or been eliminated.

CITY UTILITIES' "EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WATER SERVICE RATE" RATES ARE THE SAME AS STAGE TWO, BUT THERE ARE MORE DRASTIC LIMITATIONS IMPLEMENTED ON THE USE OF WATER.

WHEN THE STORED WATER VOLUME HAS RETURNED TO 55 PERCENT OF CAPACITY, OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE THREE HAVE SUFFICIENTLY MODERATED OR BEEN ELIMINATED, STAGE THREE MAY REVERT TO STAGE TWO OR STAGE ONE, OR BE TERMINATED.

Tips to Save Water

Water is one of our most precious natural resources, and everyone in our community should be doing their best to conserve water all the time. If each of us can do just one thing each day to save water - even if it's only a couple of gallons - our community can save more than a million gallons of water each week. The following are no-cost and low-cost ways to reduce water usage.

Indoors

When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too.

- If possible, replace toilets built before 1994; they use 3 1/2 gallons or more per flush, while newer WaterSense® labeled models use only 1.28 gallons or less per flush.
- Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Small leaks can add up in a hurry. Check for leaky toilets by dropping a little food coloring in your toilet tank; if, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Fortunately, the flapper and fill valve are easy, inexpensive replacements.
- Turning off the water while shaving can save up to 300 gallons a month. Turning off the water while washing your hair can save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- If your shower fills a 1-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, install a water-saving 2.0 gpm low-flow showerhead.
- Replace the aerators on faucets with new efficient models rated 1.5 gallons or less per minute.
- Take shorter showers. Five minutes or less will add up to big savings.
- When taking a bath, plug the bathtub before turning the water on and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under a running faucet. You can then re-use the water for plants.

Outdoors

Remember, most lawns in southwest Missouri only require 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water per week.

- Inspect your lawn irrigation system, outside faucets, hoses and drip sprayers, and fix leaks immediately. Small leaks can add up to high water bills quickly.
- Participate in the CU Even/Odd Watering Program. You can help Springfield save water and you will save money.
- Water your lawn and garden early in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler and to help avoid evaporation. Only water when the wind is calm, so the water falls where you want.
- Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered, not the sidewalk, house or street. If you see excess water running into the street, move the sprinkler or have the heads adjusted on irrigation systems.
- Place mulch around trees and plants to help retain water longer and to slow evaporation.
- Install a rain sensor on your irrigation system to avoid watering your lawn during or immediately after rain.
- Don't run the hose while washing your car; use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Learn how to shut off your irrigation system in case of leaks, malfunctions, or unexpected rains.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff toward shrubs and trees, or collect and use for plants.
- Choose shrubs and groundcover plants that have greater heat and drought tolerances and require less water.

Making simple adjustments to our water usage will result in significant savings. Remember, if each of our 80,000 residential and business customers saved just two gallons of water each day, that's more than 1,000,000 gallons a week. Now imagine what we could save if everyone would participate in water conservation.

Go to cityutilities.net for more details about the complete plan.



301 E. Central • Springfield, MO. 65802 • 417-863-9000