

Whether you have a private well or are on a public water system, your drinking water comes from within the boundaries of Rockland County. This is an unusual situation, especially in the lower Hudson Valley where much of the drinking water comes from other counties further upstate in New York. This is both a blessing and a curse. What goes on within the boundaries of the County has a substantial effect on water quality, but the Rockland County Health Department has the ability to control many of these activities. We go to great lengths to protect the quality and quantity of water available to you.

A variety of factors can result in the need for the Health Department to order emergency water restrictions. When rainfall is scarce in Rockland County, people typically use more water to maintain their landscaping at the same time our water resources are being stressed by the lack of precipitation. Ultimately the decision to call a drought is determined by analyzing whether the county's water resources can safely supply basic sanitation and fire protection while still meeting resident demands. Of course water consumption is one of the greatest determining factors as to whether or not restrictions need to be put in place. The more wisely Rocklanders use water, the longer everyone can enjoy the full benefits of the supply.

The following is a summary of the different drought restrictions that will be enforced. The Stage of Drought restrictions is determined by how long the weather has been dry. The higher the stage, the more urgent the need to conserve and the tougher the restrictions. It is hoped that by enacting and enforcing the earlier stages of drought we will avoid having to enact the later, harsher stages. Water saving practices such as mulch and low flow irrigation use are rewarded within the scope of this conservation plan.

STAGE 1: Drought Watch

- Water cannot be served in restaurants unless the patron requests it.
- The use of flow-through (non-recycled) fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools is not allowed.
- Water cannot be used for flushing sewers or hydrants except for emergencies.
- Lawn and garden watering is only allowed on odd or even days based on address.* Watering is only allowed between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 AM for automatic, in-ground irrigation systems OR between the hours of 4 PM and 10 PM for manual sprinklers or hose-fed irrigation systems.

STAGE 2: Drought Alert

- **Stage 1 restrictions continue.**
- Lawn and garden watering is allowed on odd or even days based on address* only between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM for automatic or inground irrigation systems OR between 5 PM and 9 PM for manual sprinklers or hose fed irrigation systems.
- Watering of trees, shrubs, outdoor plants and other landscaped areas is only allowed every other day (odd or even) only between 2-6 AM OR 5-9 PM.
- Plant nurseries can only water between 2 AM and 6 AM and 6 PM and 10 PM.
- Golf courses can only water between 12 midnight and 6 AM and can hand water greens once per day.
- Water may not be used to wash non-public paved surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas and patios.
- With the exception of emergency vehicles, only commercial car washes can clean automobiles, trucks or trailers.

STAGE 3: Drought Warning

- **Stage 1 and 2 restrictions continue.**
- Watering of lawns is not allowed.
- Only mulched gardens can be watered by hand or by low flow irrigation systems on odd or even days based on address* between 2 AM and 6 AM OR between 5 PM and 9 PM.
- Only mulched trees, shrubs, outdoor plants and other landscaped areas can be watered on odd or even days based on address* between 2 AM and 6 AM OR between 5 PM and 9 PM.
- Plant nurseries can only water between 4 AM and 6 AM and 7 PM and 9 PM.
- Golf courses can only water between 2 AM and 6 AM and can hand water greens once per day.
- Public athletic fields can only water between 4 AM and 6 AM.
- Water may not be used to wash paved surfaces such as streets, roads and tennis courts.
- With the exception of emergency vehicles, only commercial car washes that recycle water can clean automobiles, trucks or trailers.
- The non-commercial use of water or steam to clean buildings or decks is not allowed.



***Note on Odd/ Even Days**

Premises that have odd numbered street addresses are permitted to water (within the allowed time periods; see above) on the odd days of the month. Premises that have even numbered street addresses are permitted to water within the allowed time periods on even days of the month. For example 15 Elm Street may water on July 1, 3 and 5 while 20 Rose Lane may water on July 2, 4 and 6.

STAGE 4: Drought Emergency

- **Stage 1, 2 and 3 restrictions continue.**
- Flower and/or vegetable gardens cannot be watered.
- Trees, shrubs, outdoor plants and other landscaped areas cannot be watered.
- Golf courses cannot be watered.
- The use of water or steam to clean buildings or decks is not allowed.
- Private pools cannot be filled or operated.
- The use of water for the operation of ice skating rinks is not allowed.
- Water cannot be taken from any stream, creek or other surface water supply for any reason.
- Water-cooled air-conditioning units and heat pumps cannot be used.
- No washing of any vehicles.
- No watering at plant nurseries.
- No watering public athletic fields.

STAGE 5: Severe Drought Emergency

- **Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 restrictions continue.**
- Use of water in a residence is limited to 50 gallons per day per person.
- No public swimming facility can use water to fill or operate.
- The use of water for agricultural, commercial or industrial purposes cannot exceed the user's average daily consumption for the preceding 12 calendar months.

Drought Restriction Enforcement

When drought restrictions are enacted, the Rockland County Health Department enforces the code by assessing penalties of up to \$1000 per violation. Please note that enforcement does not depend upon the source of the water. Restrictions apply to use of water from any source.

In some cases the Commissioner of Health may grant a variance from the restrictions. However, variances WILL NOT be granted to protect any vegetation planted during a previous calendar year or after declaration of any stage of drought restrictions. A written request and a fee must be submitted to the Rockland County Health Department in order to apply for a variance.

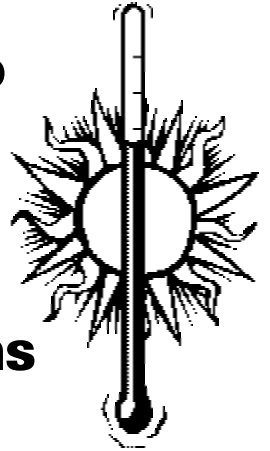
To request a copy of "Article V of the Rockland County Sanitary Code (Mandatory Water Emergency Conservation Measures)" or to obtain additional information regarding drought restrictions or variances, please contact:

**Rockland County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
Bldg. D, Sanatorium Road Pomona,
New York 10970
(845) 364-2608**



How Dry I Am

A Guide to Rockland County's Drought Restrictions



Developed by the Rockland County Health Department in conjunction with the Rockland County Water Wise Committee