



Water Talk

Special
Issue

COVID-19, WATER SUPPLY AND NEW WATERING/IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS

Dear Resident,

The spread of the coronavirus is an unprecedented situation. The South Huntington Water District is concerned with the health and well-being of our residents, our employees and our businesses. Our staff continues to work as an essential service during the coronavirus pandemic, ensuring that everyone has a safe, abundant supply of drinking water, and that there is a sufficient reserve for fire protection.

Our Water Is Safe: The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have stated that since we chlorinate our water, it is completely safe to drink, and at present, we have a plentiful water supply.

You Do Not Need To Stockpile Bottled Water: Testing shows that the COVID-19 coronavirus is not waterborne, making your water supply safe to use. Water flow, water pressure and water services are unaffected, and there is no need to stockpile bottled water.

But We Need Your Help: If the pandemic stretches into summertime when water usage peaks, we are concerned about potential supply chain shortages of the disinfectants that all water suppliers are mandated to use. As a proactive response to potential disinfection chemical shortages, the Board of Commissioners has decided to implement new lawn irrigation restrictions as described below.

Mandatory Odd/Even: With this very possible eventuality in mind, and given water conservation priorities for drinking and fire protection, the South Huntington Water District has initiated mandatory Odd/Even Lawn Watering Restrictions effective **May 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020:**

- **Even numbered houses** may water **ONLY** on **even numbered calendar days.**
- **Odd numbered houses** may water **ONLY** on **odd numbered calendar days.**
- **Houses without numbers** may water **ONLY** on **odd numbered calendar days.**

Notification: Please notify your irrigation contractors and landscapers to set watering times on your irrigation controller to the odd/even day schedule.



Irrigation: As an extra level of protection, we recommend that residents do not activate their irrigation system until May 1st. This will reduce the amount of water we pump and, in turn, reduce the need for chemicals and service calls from irrigation companies.

The South Huntington Water District will continue to be proactive in addressing the COVID-19 situation and in adhering to conditions of the state of emergency. It is imperative for all to be vigilant and to obey good hygiene practices. Please refer to the information and health messages from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

Sincerely,

The Board of Water Commissioners, South Huntington Water District

GREENSCAPES...STAYING GREEN... WITH CONSERVATION IN MIND

From May through September, lawn and landscape watering accounts for 3x - 5x winter water consumption; and as mandated by the Department of Environmental Conservation, we are committed to water conservation. Here are helpful recommendations for a beautiful landscape while reducing water usage.

1. Watering in early morning reduces evaporation.
2. Never overwater. Your lawn typically requires one inch of water per week (including rainfall).
3. Keep your lawn approximately two inches high to reduce evaporation and use less water.
4. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain water and to help the grass grow thicker.
5. Reducing sprinkler zone watering time by two minutes reduces water usage by 10 percent!
6. Layered mulch around trees and plants slows evaporation and discourages weed growth.
7. Slow-drip irrigation hoses help avoid overwatering and save money on your water bill.
8. Leaks waste water! Regularly test all hoses and spigots and have your irrigation system tested by professionals.
9. Ensure your irrigation system has an automatic timer and make seasonal adjustments.
10. Test your irrigation system to ensure grass and landscapes are watered, not sidewalks, driveways or patios.
11. Check sprinkler heads and replace cracked, chipped or worn components.
12. Choose WaterSense labeled products inside and outside your home to conserve water. For more information, visit: www.epa.gov/watersense.

As an extra level of protection, we recommend that residents do not activate their lawn irrigation systems at this time. This will reduce the amount of water we pump and, in turn, reduce the need for chemicals and service calls from irrigation companies.

WaterTalk

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