



# LAWRENCEVILLE

GWINNETT • METRO ATLANTA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Outdoor Water Use in the City of Lawrenceville

Updated September 2016

#### **Is it true that I can water my lawn every day?**

Yes. As of December 1, 2010, state law allows residents in Georgia to water any day of the week, regardless of your address, but only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

#### **How about rules for car washing and pressure washing? Same rules apply?**

No, for outdoor water use not related to landscape irrigation, you may use water any time of the day, any day of the week.

#### **What about the even/odd schedule based on my address? Does this still apply?**

No, the even/odd rules no longer apply during non-drought conditions. They are reinstated only when a Level Two Drought is declared by the State.

#### **If I water landscaping with a hose instead of a sprinkler, can I only water before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.?**

No, hand watering with a shut-off nozzle is allowed any time of the day, any day of the week.

#### **What if I put in new landscape? Do I have to water between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.?**

No, newly installed landscape is also exempt from the hourly restrictions for the first 30 days following installation. However, 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. is still the most efficient time to water outdoors. During the heat of the day, sun and wind can cause up to 50 percent of the water to evaporate before it is absorbed by plants.

#### **How about drip irrigation or soaker hoses?**

Drip irrigation is highly efficient and therefore it is exempt from the 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. rule. It may be used any time, any day.

### **Are parks included in the new schedule?**

Athletic fields and parks are exempt from the hourly restrictions. These areas may be watered any time of the day, any day of the week.

### **What are some other exemptions to the hourly restrictions?**

- Commercial agriculture
- Alternative sources of water (grey water, rain water, condensate, etc.)
- Irrigation of personal food gardens
- Water from a private well
- Irrigation of plants for commercial use
- Installation and maintenance of irrigation systems
- Hydroseeding

### **Watering your landscape efficiently**

Although residents may water their landscapes every day, it is best practice to water landscapes only when needed. Irrigation should supplement rainfall. Ideally, most established landscapes in periods of limited rainfall should only need to be watered deeply once a week. The reasonable use of water resources is essential to this region. Use the step test and visual inspection to determine if your plants and grass need to be watered. Also keep in mind that tiered water rates apply to usage.

#### **The Step Test:**

1. Place your foot firmly on your turf area.
2. Watch how quickly the turf springs up to cover your footprint.
3. If the turf springs up immediately (a few seconds) your turf is probably not in need of watering.
4. If the foot print remains or the turf slowly rises to eventually recover, your turf is in need of a deep watering.

#### **Visual inspection**

Check plants in the early morning or late evening. Plants checked in the heat of the day will always appear to need water.

If the plant is wilting, yellow or grayish in appearance, has dried edges, browning, or loss of flowering, the plant is probably in need of water.