


## OUTSIDE WATER SAVING TIPS

- Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
  - Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
  - Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
  - Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
  - Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- 
- Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
  - Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
  - Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.

## Lawn Watering Basics

According to the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, healthy lawns require only one inch of water weekly, either from rain or irrigation or a combination of both. Watering a lawn lightly on a frequent basis, rather than a deep water once per week, encourages shallow rooting and crabgrass growth while making the lawn more susceptible to drought injury. Watering during hot and sunny days results in a majority of the water evaporating before it reaches the root system.

Please consult your sprinkler system's owners manual or contact a sprinkler company to correctly program your automatic sprinkler controller. This Mandatory Water Restriction will be a yearly requirement from May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, so programming the sprinkler controller now will eliminate the need for future adjustments.

LWD staff will be monitoring all sprinkler use in Town and will stop to remind residents of the new restriction policy. A second notice will result in a \$50 fine, and subsequent violations will result in a \$100 fine. If any residents have questions, please contact Greg Woods, Water Superintendent, at 781-259-8997 Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The Water Commissioners would like to thank you in advance for your efforts to help Lincoln meet these stringent requirements.

Andrew Cole, Chair  
Penny Billings  
Paul Giese  
*Water Commissioners*

## Lincoln Water Department

### Important Water Conservation Information

The Lincoln Water Department (LWD) is required to implement a Mandatory Water Restriction on nonessential outdoor watering for a majority of the growing season. This restriction is the result of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issuing our Water Management Act permit with drastic reductions in our yearly permissible water use, and is consistent with conservation policies of the Water Commissioners. An integral part of the new permit is reducing individual residential water consumption to less than 65 gallons per person per day. As of last year, Lincoln residents averaged 76 gallons per day. LWD experiences a dramatic increase in water use during the summer months primarily due to automatic irrigation systems and outdoor water use.

The Mandatory Water Restriction consists of an odd/even watering schedule. Watering is allowed for house addresses that end with:

**Even numbers = Tuesday &/or Thursday**  
**Odd numbers = Wednesday &/or Friday**

There will be no nonessential outdoor watering Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Watering will only be permitted between the hours of 7 PM and 7 AM. Hand held watering with a hose or bucket is permissible.

To help our customers reduce their water use, please read through this brochure and try to implement as many water saving tips as possible. We are confident Lincoln residents can both reduce water use and continue to have healthy, beautiful lawns and landscaping.

## INSIDE WATER SAVING TIPS

- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1,000 gallons a month.

- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons.

- For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.



- If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead.

- Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.

- When you shop for a new appliance, consider one offering cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy-efficient than older appliances.

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Saves three gallons each day.

- Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor. Saves three gallons each day.

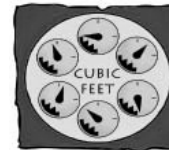
- Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.

- Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. Saves 400 gallons a month.

- Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.

- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month.



- Cut back on rinsing if your dishwasher is new. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.

- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.

- If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush.

- When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

- Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.

## OUTSIDE WATER SAVING TIPS

- Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.

- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.

- Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.

- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.

- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

- Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.

- Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives.

- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust them so only your lawn is watered and not the house, street, or sidewalk.



- Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers.