



**Town of Reading**  
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**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**(781) 942-9077**

**\*\*\*Public Notice\*\*\***

Request Goes Out to Conserve Water

The Town of Reading Water Department requests that residents and businesses conserve water as part of a regional effort to lower the water demand. This advisory is being issued due to the recent lack of precipitation combined with a string of high temperatures resulting in unusually high water demand.

**Water Conservation Program**

**The hours for outdoor water use are as follows:**

**Monday through Sunday**

**4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Watering is permitted for even numbered addresses on even numbered days of the month and for odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days of the month as specified above.

**There are no restrictions on hand held devices**

**Violation of these regulations is punishable by a \$300.00 fine**

The best way to save water is to eliminate unnecessary uses such as lawn watering, leaks, and inefficient fixtures and water use practices in the home.

In summer, one of the best places to save water is in the yard. Lawns can survive dry periods. Here are some tips on how to make your lawn more drought-resistant:

1. Don't cut the lawn short-- short grass has shallow roots, which are more susceptible to drought, pest and weeds. 3"-3 1/2" is short enough;
2. Don't water so often—frequent, light waterings discourage deep rooting;
3. Use drought-resistant grasses such as little bluestem, tall fescue or Canada bluegrass. Seed into existing lawns during spring/fall maintenance;
4. Add compost, absorbent polymers or other water absorbers to soil;
5. Don't water the sidewalk or driveway, and water early or late in the day, and when there is little wind. Use low-volume sprinkler so water sinks into ground;
6. Consider reducing the size of your lawn for less watering and maintenance; consult your nursery for a list of attractive plants, which require less water and maintenance.

Inside, you can save tens of thousands of gallons of water a year by installing water efficient toilets, showerheads and faucets. These devices have improved a lot recently, many of them work much better than old fixtures. Saving water indoors will also mean you'll save sewer charges (or prolong the life of your septic system.) Fixing leaks will also save you money! Other tips include:

1. Keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator, instead of running water until it gets cold from the tap.
2. Insulate water pipes in the basement.
3. Don't run the tub with the drain open while the water warms up (the cold water will mix with the hot).
4. Use a broom, instead of water, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
5. Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
6. Shut off the water when you're brushing your teeth or shaving.

Residents are also reminded of the Water Conservation Rebate Program that is currently in place. If you are unaware of the program or would like a copy, it is available at the Town Hall, online at [www.readingma.gov](http://www.readingma.gov) or by calling the DPW office at 781-942-9077.