



Borough of Glen Rock: Water Conservation Ordinance

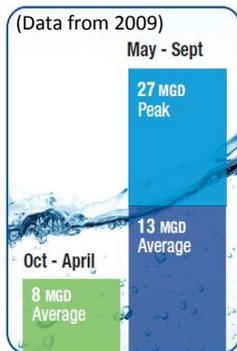


Every year in the summer our underground aquifer – the source of our water – suffers a drastic decrease in volume. The main reason for such depletion is due to higher peak water consumption, which can amount to a 300% increase compared to the rest of the year.

As a result, Ridgewood Water has requested municipalities to amend their current ordinances with stricter **Water Conservation** measures. This flyer explains **why** changes are being made and **what** they are.

Seasonal Water Use

Million gallons per day (MGD)



Why

As indicated by Ridgewood Water, the 300% water usage increase in summer months is due mostly to an increased use of automatic lawn irrigation systems, which lead to water shortages. Most summers, water restrictions need to be stepped up to emergency stage 3 and 4, and we need to purchase water from other water utilities. This is expensive, and the cost is passed down to consumers. In addition, depletion of water from the aquifer hampers the natural filtration and purification of the water as it percolates through the ground, resulting in higher levels of contaminants such as salt in our drinking water.

By reducing the amount of water wasted by lawn over-irrigation we will be replenishing the aquifer and preserving water quality. This is a smart thing to do for the environment, our health, and our pockets.

What

The new ordinance asks you to conserve water, and it is focused ***exclusively*** on **lawn irrigation by sprinklers**. These are the regulations depending on the type of irrigation system you have:

1. **Hose-end sprinklers:**

- Water your lawn **no more than 2 days per week**
 - Odd numbered addresses on Tuesday and Saturday
 - Even numbered addresses on Wednesday and Sunday
- Water **between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.**
- Watering of any lawn area limited to **30 minutes**



2. **Automatic sprinklers without a SMART system:**

- Water your lawn **no more than 2 days per week**
 - Odd numbered addresses on Tuesday and Saturday
 - Even numbered addresses on Wednesday and Sunday
- Water **between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.**
- Must be equipped with a rain sensor to disable at ½ inch of rainfall
 - Don't water your lawn **when it's raining**
- Spray/mist heads: watering of any lawn area limited to **15 minutes**
- Rotating heads: watering of any lawn area limited to **50 minutes**



3. **Automatic sprinklers with a SMART system:**

- Water **between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., any day, no further restrictions**



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- Uses the sophisticated SMART system, which is based on soil moisture, weather reports, etc, to determine the correct amount of water needed
- SMART controllers must be registered with the Glen Rock Building department for a \$25 one-time fee, and will be given a yard placard to be displayed on the lawn
- Already equipped with rain sensor

Additional Information

PENALTIES:

Warnings for violations will be issued for the first year, followed by fines starting at **\$100** after April 1st 2017, increasing to **\$250** for repeat offenders.

EXEMPTIONS:

The following are exempt from these restrictions:

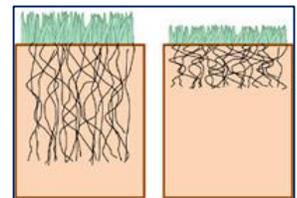
- **Watering flowers, plants, shrubs, lawns etc using a hand-held hose**
- Watering of vegetable gardens
- Commercial nurseries can be watered as necessary
- Lawn treated with chemicals that need watering can be watered for 1 extra day
- New lawns or landscaping can be watered as needed within the first 21 days
- When using reclaimed water (from rainwater harvesting, graywater systems, etc.)
- Government properties will abide the 2 days/week watering schedule, but using 2 work days, rather than a work day and a weekend day



Smart Tips

Watering early in the morning or later in the day is preferred since it minimizes water evaporation. Watering in the heat of the day causes most of the water to evaporate instead of soaking into the soil where it's most needed

- Watering on fewer days and for longer periods (approx. 30 min.), results in deeper roots and more drought-tolerant and disease/ pest-resistant grass.
- Consider replacing part of the lawn with trees, shrubs, other ground-cover plants, vegetable gardens, or mulch, which use less water and fertilizer.
- Smart Water Application Technology (SWAT) may help homeowners and landscape irrigators better manage water use. These irrigation systems rely on controllers that automatically calculate and deliver the needed amount of water. While they may require initial professional installation and calibration, SWAT controllers are designed to be relatively simple enough to use.
- If we all take a few of these easy and sensible steps, we'll not only save money on our water bills, we'll also be doing our part to preserve fresh water for our town and protect our environment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the Glen Rock Environmental Commission page on Facebook "Green Up Glen Rock", or email GREC: grec@glenrocknj.net.

Additional info on how to conserve water can be found at:

<http://www.glenrocknj.net/departments/boards-and-committees/detail.php?id=ENVIR>

http://njwatersavers.rutgers.edu/MunicipalGuideTurfManagement/ForMunicipalities_GuideTurfMgmt_4Water.html