



DENVER WATER

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Denver Water announces 2008 summer watering rules

April 21, 2008:

April showers bring May flowers — a good reminder that Denver-area residents shouldn't overwater their yards this year. Denver Water's summer watering rules take effect May 1, and this year the utility will be stepping up enforcement with roving water monitors.

The rules are mandatory and are as follows:

- No lawn watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Do not waste water by allowing it to pool in gutters, streets and alleys.
- Do not waste water by letting it spray on concrete and asphalt.
- Repair leaking sprinkler systems within 10 days.
- Do not use spray irrigation while it is raining or during high winds.
- There are no assigned watering days, but watering more than three days per week is prohibited.

"We'll be keeping an eye out for water waste, but our primary mission is to inform our customers," said Melissa Elliott, manager of water conservation. "We want to reinforce good watering habits too, so if we see you outside with the spray nozzle on the hose, don't shoot; we may just want to thank you."

The enhanced enforcement of watering rules fits in with *Tap+Smart*[®], Denver Water's new program aimed at promoting conservation and reducing water use by at least 22 percent by 2016 from 2001.

System-wide water use in 2007 was 20 percent lower than 2001 use levels. Denver City government, committed to setting a good example, reduced water use by more than 30 percent in 2007 compared to 2001.

"Customers have been on track for this target, but as memories of the drought fade, we want to emphasize that reducing waste by using only what you need is the right thing to do — every year," said Elliott.

Denver Water customers will receive a brochure by mail that provides instructions for the 2008 Summer Water Use Program and gives helpful information for determining the correct amount of water for healthy landscapes.

Customers found breaking the watering rules will be warned on the first violation, receive a \$50 fine on the second violation and a \$100 fine on the third. Continued violations can result in suspension of service.

Water waste can be reported in two ways. If it is water waste in Denver parks, call 3-1-1. To report water waste anywhere else, call Denver Water at (303) 893-2444.

Recent snowpack readings show that there is a high likelihood that all of Denver Water's reservoirs will fill with the spring runoff.

Still, by remaining *Tap+Smart* and using only the water they need, Denver Water customers can help minimize impacts to reservoirs during the hottest months of summer when reservoir levels begin to drop. A long-term commitment to efficient water use will also help postpone or avoid spending more money on other supply options, support the preservation of Colorado's natural environment and help manage some of the challenges and uncertainties that climate change may present.

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* The plus sign is not pronounced. "Tap Smart" is the correct pronunciation.