



# Press Release

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## RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES ONCE PER WEEK OUTDOOR IRRIGATION SCHEDULE FOLLOWING NTMWD ACTION

*New schedule begins Sunday for odd-numbered addresses.*

(Richardson, TX) – The City of Richardson has adopted a once per week outdoor irrigation schedule for water customers effective Sunday, Aug. 31 to Oct. 31, 2014. The change follows North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) board action Thursday night to increase water use in order to maintain water quality within its service system.

The NTMWD requires regular flow of water in order to ensure consistent chlorine levels remain in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards. Chlorine levels decrease when water remains in the system for too long and is exposed to high temperatures. Richardson’s system is performing well within safety parameters, but will benefit from the once per week schedule. City staff will continue to monitor and test water quality within the system and will assess whether hydrant flushing becomes necessary.

While conservation measures are being alleviated to ensure quality, conservation efforts will still be necessary for the foreseeable future. The NTMWD has given direction that it expects to readopt every other week watering again in November.

More on Richardson’s water restrictions is outlined below:

### **Lawn irrigation schedule (once per week until further notice)**

<b>Last digit of address</b>	<b>Allowed landscape water day</b>
0,2,4,6,8 (Even)	Every Saturday of the month (irrigation prohibited between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
1,3,5,7,9 (Odd)	Every Sunday of the month (irrigation prohibited between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

### **Additional restrictions:**

- No outdoor watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. or during times of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, etc.).
- Excessive water runoff from any landscaped area onto any impervious surfaces is prohibited.

### **Exemptions - The following water usage is exempt from Stage 3 restrictions:**

- Use of drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses to protect foundations is allowed. Recommended maximum 2 hours when needed and not during precipitation periods.
- Hand watering of ornamental flower beds and other ornamental landscaping is allowed; hand watering of lawns is prohibited.
- Public athletic fields may be watered as needed.
- The operation of ornamental fountains is permitted.
- Washing of vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. is permitted.
- Newly constructed swimming pools, Jacuzzis and spas may be filled.

- Pools may be drained and refilled for repairs as needed (must follow proper water disposal methods).
- Existing swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and spas may be replenished to maintain operational levels.
- Commercial full-service or self-service car wash facilities, including those at service stations and automobile dealership facilities is permitted.
- Washing or hosing down of sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas or other similar paved surfaces is permitted.
- Activities utilizing other sources of water (wastewater, effluent, natural water springs, ponds or deep water wells) are permitted.
- Golf courses may water greens and tee boxes as needed.
- Smart irrigation and drip irrigation systems water as needed.
- Hydroseeding, hydromulching and sprigging is permitted.

### **Enforcement**

The City's Community Services Department has inspectors on duty 18 hours a day, seven days a week to enforce watering restrictions. Inspectors will proactively canvass neighborhoods and commercial areas to identify violations as well as respond to citizen complaints, which upon receipt will be dispatched to inspectors in the field for investigation/action.

Inspectors will also send notices when evidence of watering is observed. The purpose of the notice is to inform the violator that their sprinkler system is very likely operating on an inappropriate day or during an inappropriate time.

A defendant will not be required to appear in court if issued a citation for a first offence. A defendant may instead elect to plead 'guilty' or 'no contest' and pay a window fine of \$150.

If a second (or subsequent) citation is issued or if a citation is written as an "aggravated offense," the defendant will be required to appear before a municipal court judge.

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