



Essential Water Usage

During Water Restrictions

MassDEP Water Management Program (WMA) regulations (310 CMR 36.00) were amended. This will better align water use restrictions during times of drought with the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, as updated in 2019.

- Health or safety – this includes long-established uses like fire-fighting and municipal pipe flushing to prevent contaminants in water supply pipes, as well as:
 - Public facilities used for cooling such as splash pads and swimming pools, and
 - For washing of boats, engines, or marine equipment to prevent negative saltwater impacts or the transfer of invasive aquatic species;
- By permit, license, statute or regulation;
- For the production of food, including privately-owned home vegetable gardens, and fiber;
- For maintenance of livestock;
- To meet the core functions (those functions essential to the commercial operations) of a business, such as;
 - Plant nurseries to maintain stock,
 - Golf courses to maintain greens and tees, and limited fairway watering (this is further described in 310 CMR 36.07(2)(c)2.a. through c. of the regulations),
 - Venues used for weddings or similar special events that limit watering to hand-held hose or drip irrigation to maintain gardens, flowers and ornamental plants,
 - Professional washing of building exteriors, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement in the course of construction, reconstruction or renovation work;
- To irrigate public parks before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.;
- To irrigate public and private recreation fields, including those operated by schools, colleges, universities and athletic associations, before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.;
- To irrigate publicly funded shade trees and trees in the public right-of-way; or
- To establish a new lawn to stabilize soil after new construction or repair/replacement of a Title 5 system.