

Why Lawn Watering Regulations?

In order to minimize the yearly increases in our water rates, the Township and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department have reviewed the factors that affect our water usage. Several factors greatly affect the water rates (cost of water) for our residents. The distance from the water treatment plant and the change in elevation from the water treatment plant to our residents are significant factors in our water rates. Unfortunately, these factors cannot be modified.


Use patterns, or more specifically, peak hour usage is another major component in determining our water rates. Fortunately, we can effect change in this area. By stabilizing our usage and removing the peaks we experience in the summer months, we can reduce the increase in our water rates. For this reason, the Township has revised its ordinances to restrict lawn watering during the peak hours.


Thank you for your help!


Northville Township would like to thank all of our residents and businesses, in advance, for their cooperation in ensuring the overall reliability and affordability of our public water system. If residents or business owners have any questions regarding the water use restrictions they can call Northville Township's Department of Public Services staff at (248) 348-5820.

Additional ways to reduce your personal bill

There are many techniques residents can use to minimize their water expenses. Most of these practices have the added benefit of being kind to the environment.

 **Utilize Rain Barrels** - Rain barrels collect rain water from your roof down spouts. This water is stored in the barrel and can be utilized to water your lawn or landscape beds at a later date. Check with the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) for up coming rain barrel sale events. (allianceofrougecommunities.org)

Plant a Rain Garden - Rain gardens  are typically planted in a low lying area where water naturally accumulates after a rain event. By depressing the area more and planting native vegetation (such as purple cone flowers), you can create a beautiful landscape bed that requires very little watering. Native plants are more drought tolerant! Many local companies offer services to assist residents selection of these plants.

 **Check Your Plumbing Fixtures** - Sinks, toilets, hydro powered sump pumps, swimming pools and irrigation lines can all leak. Even a slow leak can build up to a big expense in a relatively short period of time.

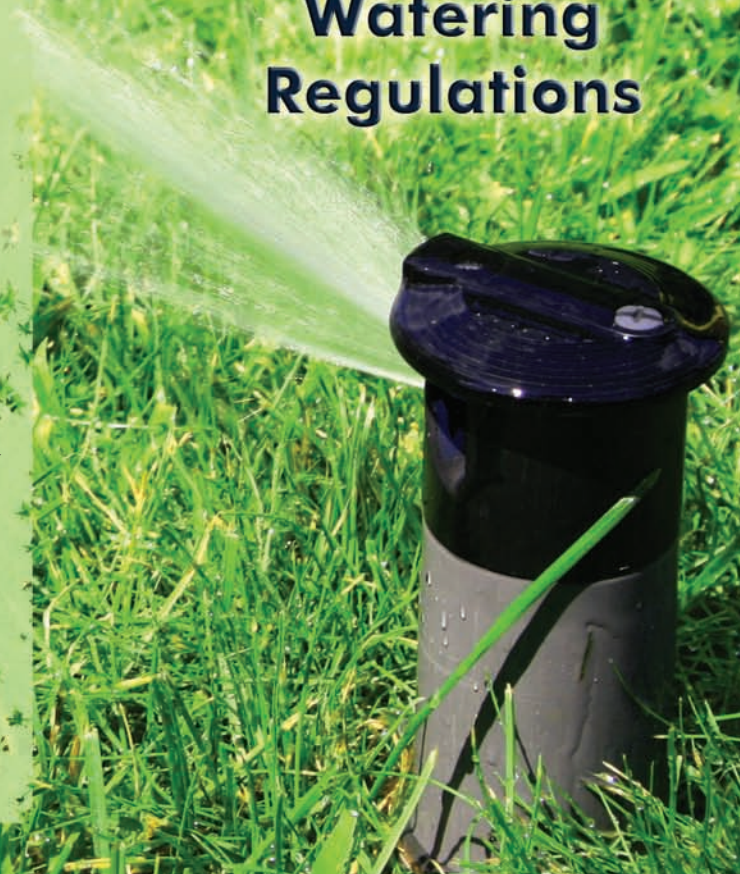


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Charter Township
of Northville

Lawn Watering Regulations



What are the lawn watering regulations?

-  Any Northville Township home that has an underground irrigation system must limit the hours of this system's usage to between the hours of 12 a.m. (midnight) and 6 a.m.
-  Homes that manually irrigate lawns and gardens must *not* water during the hours of 6 a.m. – 10 a.m.
-  All irrigation systems can only be used on days that coincide with their house numbers. Odd numbered homes (homes ending in 1,3,5,7 or 9) can irrigate on odd days and even addressed homes (ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) can water on even days.



Can I get a variance?

The Northville Township board has created a feedback system for residents to use in the event that they cannot conform to the water ordinance. If the ordinance constitutes a practical hardship to a resident, he or she may petition the board for an exemption from these requirements. Residents must petition the Director of Public Services in writing and outline the circumstances that would justify a variance on these guidelines. All subsequent decisions from the Director of Public Services are final.

How will these regulations affect my lawn?

Some residents may worry that these new watering requirements will affect the look and quality of their lawns. By using a scheduled soak cycle, residents' lawns can get the best application of water and benefit the most from watering. For instance, instead of watering each lawn zone for 15 minutes, residents can water each zone for five minutes in three cycles. By leaving an hour between zone start times, lawns will have the best retention of water and avoid run-off.



Often a large portion of water applied to a lawn is not absorbed because too much water is applied at once. Not only does this over-water plants and cause nutrients in the soil to leach away from the roots of plants, water runoff carries pollutants from fertilizers and pesticides into our streams and waterways. The following soak cycle is best for your lawn, your finances, and our local environment.

Sample Cycle Soak Watering Schedule:

<u>Zone 1 Begins</u>	<u>Zone 2 Begins</u>	<u>Zone 3 Begins</u>	<u>Zone 4 Begins</u>	<u>Zone 5 Begins</u>	<u>Zone 6 Begins</u>
3:00 a.m.	3:05 a.m.	3:10 a.m.	3:15 a.m.	3:20 a.m.	3:25 a.m.
4:00 a.m.	4:05 a.m.	4:10 a.m.	4:15 a.m.	4:20 a.m.	4:25 a.m.
5:00 a.m.	5:05 a.m.	5:10 a.m.	5:15 a.m.	5:20 a.m.	5:25 a.m.



How do I know if my lawn is fully watered?

Watering with the above soak cycle will minimize run-off and ensure that your soil has enough time to absorb water without too much build up. An hour after watering you should be able to push a soil probe (or screwdriver) into the soil easily but not easily through underlying clay. A lawn with proper topsoil should be able to have the probe slide six inches into the soil.

What is the penalty for nonconformance?

These new regulations are a necessary step to ensure that all of our residents are not affected by sky-rocketing water utility bills. Therefore, a fine of \$300 will be levied against residents who do not abide by these regulations. Repeat offenders of this ordinance will be charged \$500 and charges will add up for every day that an offense is made. Additional fees to cover the cost of sanctions will also be charged to violators of this ordinance. This penalty will be enforced to ensure we all can enjoy the benefits of controlled water expenses.

