



NEW WATER USE REQUIREMENTS

On November 14, 2001, the Santa Fe City Council adopted a host of new water conservation requirements to further promote wise water use in our city. In part, the intent is to minimize our vulnerability to future water shortage emergencies through aggressive water conservation. These provisions apply to all customers on the city water system and all water users within the City limits (e.g. private well users).



Restaurants and Banquet Operations Shall Only Serve Water and Other Beverages Upon Request

This provision includes unstaffed banquet operations (i.e. pre-setting of water and ice tea is not permitted). Beverages in single serving containers (e.g. cans or bottles) shall not be served with an accompanying glass unless requested by the customer. These provisions must be posted in a manner visible to the customer (on the menu, as a table tent, or as a sign posted in a prominent location).

Plant Nurseries

1. **Shall make City-provided conservation literature readily available to their customers**
2. **Are strongly encouraged to tag or sign their low water use plants that require little to no supplemental watering**

In addition to the general conservation literature requirement, customers purchasing turf seed or sod shall be provided city literature indicating the restrictions to planting cool season water consumptive turf under the City's new landscape ordinance. Among other provisions, the landscape ordinance does not allow the planting of turf seed or sod in excess of 25% Kentucky bluegrass content. However, the ordinance does not prohibit the sale or purchase of Kentucky bluegrass - just the planting of Kentucky bluegrass within the city limits.

Fugitive Water and Water Waste Prohibited

"Fugitive water", usually involved with watering landscaping, is when water flows onto hard surfaces or leaves the landscaped area intended to be watered. The water does not need to flow off property to be a fugitive water violation. The irrigation system shall not be operated again until the problem (e.g. broken sprinkler head) has been repaired. Washing hard surfaces is only allowed for public health and safety reasons. Vehicle washing is allowed if a shut-off hose nozzle is in use! Hose washing of outdoor eating areas is not permitted. "Water waste" is any indoor or outdoor leak in excess of 0.25 gallons per minute (gpm). Indoor leaks (e.g. faucets and toilets) must be repaired within 15 calendar days. Your facility manager and your landscape maintenance company (if you have one) need to be well aware of these provisions.

Landscape Watering Prohibited 10 am to 6 pm, May through October

The previous 3 day per week "odd-even address" outdoor watering restriction has been removed. However, we emphasize that most established landscaping can do well on just once per week watering.



Compliance

For violation of any of the provisions noted above, "Water Use Citations" will be issued. Citation fees will be assessed on the water bill and range from \$20 for the 1st violation to \$200 for the 4th and each subsequent violation. As a last resort, discontinuance of water service will be considered for habitual violators.

New Water Use Requirements continued...

Buildings Must Be Retrofitted With 1.6 Gallon Per Flush (gpf) Toilets by January 1, 2003

An "Ultra Low Flush Toilet Fact Sheet" is available from the Water Division to acquaint you with the different types on the market.



Contrary to a common rumor, the newer generation ULFT's work quite well. Toilets that use a "quick closing flapper" to limit the flush to 1.6 gpf may not be used to satisfy this requirement. In addition, buildings must have low flow showerheads (2.5 gal/min) and faucet aerators (2.5 gpm or less) by January 1, 2003. These provisions do not apply to homes or multi-family apartment complexes.



Conservation Sign in All Public Restrooms

This requirement has existed since 1997. Signs are available from the Water Division or entities may make their own signs using the City-established text.

Lodging Facilities



1. **May not provide daily linen and towel changing for multiple night guests unless the guest specifically requests it**
2. **Shall provide a conservation informational card or brochure in each guest room**

Lodging facilities commonly instruct their guests to place a request card on the bed and to throw the towels in the bathtub if linen and towel changing are desired. A request card "table tent" and conservation information towel rack hanger are being jointly produced by the City and the Santa Fe Lodgers Association and will soon be available from the Water Division. Lodging facilities may develop their own request card and conservation literature.

These provisions are legally enforceable requirements. However, the City's goal is to assist water users in any way possible to prevent violations from occurring in the first place. Our emphasis is on ensuring wise water use not on issuing as many citations as possible.



**Thank you for making Santa Fe a
"Water Friendly" community!**



City of Santa Fe

For assistance or more information call 954-7199.