

City of Aberdeen

June 12, 2006 the Aberdeen City Council became a leader in water conservation by adopting a PERMANENT WATER USE REGULATION.

The regulation prohibits the use of water for irrigation from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm for all using city water for such activities year round. Irrigation as defined in Ordinance 06-06-06 is “the act or process of watering or wetting landscaping, grass, trees, plants, and/or other vegetation by causing water from the city’s water utility to flow upon, over, through or into property with sprinklers, sprinkler hoses, soaker hose(s) (water weeping types), drip irrigation systems, in-ground irrigation systems, or by other similar means. “Irrigation” includes the application of water by handheld hose, bucket, or other manual means of water application.”

There are two instances where water can be used for irrigation during this time:

1. When a private well, which has been registered and verified by the Aberdeen Water Works personnel, is being used for the irrigation
OR
2. When a special exception for water usage has been granted by Aberdeen Water Works personnel

Both the Registration form and Application form are available at City Hall either at the Finance Department, 1st floor or Public Works Department, 3rd floor.

Anyone irrigating during these hours without proof of one of these exceptions is subject to fines of up to \$100 per incident.

Conservation is the driving force behind this restriction because watering vegetation during the heat of the day damages the plant which makes it less resistant to conditions which are stressful to it. Healthy vegetation is much more drought and disease resistant and is less prone to winter kill than vegetation that has a shallow root system or has been damaged by improper watering or mowing. Ideally you would water ONLY when the plants require it, such as when grass doesn’t bounce back after being walked on and then always water until you have applied 1” of water. Most grass should be about 4” long and mowed frequently enough to remove less than 1” of length with each mowing. Sharp mowing blades will also help to keep your grass looking good as it prevents the tearing of the grass which can make it more susceptible to disease and browning.

Healthy plants are able to withstand heat, drought and disease better and resist winter kill which should ultimately result in less water being used in times of drought, healthier, greener lawns all of the time.