

ALTERNATE DAY OUTDOOR WATERING

FAQ's

Q. Why is the District implementing alternate day watering?

A. Scheduled watering is a strategy to address peak water use demand. During the spring and summer months, water used for outdoor irrigation, accounts for a large part of the daily water demand. Historically, outdoor water irrigation systems in our area have been programmed to turn on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the early morning hours. This requires a large volume of water to be instantaneously ready to meet this demand. Coincidentally, the early morning hours of 6:30 to 9:30 AM are the daily peak hours of water use for other household use. Also, during the summer months, seasonal users place even a greater demand on water resources. This peak water use demand places a strain on the water system, particularly during the summer months, when water use is greatest. An alternate day watering schedule is simply a better way to manage our community's valuable water resource, and to avoid unnecessary expensive improvements required to supply the current demand.

Q. How does the alternate day outdoor watering schedule work?

A. Property owners with addresses ending in an even number are permitted to water Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Property owners with addresses ending in an odd number are permitted to water Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. For example, the District's Pawleys Island facility address, 456 Clearwater Drive, would follow the "even" outdoor watering schedule, irrigating only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A property address with the number 1009 Waverly Road would follow the "odd" outdoor watering schedule, watering on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

Customers such as subdivision homeowners associations; commercial, industrial, or retail developments that have open spaces and landscaped areas maintained collectively; or grouped entities which perform outdoor watering and do not have a specific street number address, are permitted to perform outdoor watering based on the first letter of the name of the subdivision or development. The names of associations with the first letter of "A" through "M" are permitted to perform outdoor watering on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The names of associations with the first letter of "N" through "Z" are permitted to perform outdoor watering on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. For example, a subdivision homeowners association or retail development named "Litchfield Lakes" would be permitted to perform outdoor watering on the "A" through "M" days of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Saturday is a non-watering day.

The hours established for outdoor watering are: 4:00 AM – 7:00 AM.

Q. Can I water my potted plants and hanging baskets?

A. Yes. A reasonable amount of water used for outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets is acceptable. This alternate day watering policy is aimed at reducing peak daily water use caused by activities such as watering/irrigating lawns and landscaping.

Q. What if I recently planted a new lawn, which requires more frequent watering?

A. New sod lawns and new landscaping are specifically exempted from the alternate day watering policy.

Q. What if I water my yard with a private well?

A. If you are using a private well or other source to water your lawn or other landscaped areas, the alternate day outdoor watering policy does not apply.

Q. Does the policy apply to washing your personal car or boat?

A. No. The outdoor watering schedule does not apply to washing personal vehicles including trailers, boats, and RV's. In addition, routine, but not frequent, pressure washing of driveways, patios, or houses is not subject to the schedule.

Q. What is the proper amount of water to maintain a healthy lawn?

A. Typically, a healthy lawn needs only one inch of water per week. This amount may vary, however, depending on your individual property's underlying soil conditions and the exposure to sunlight. To assist your efforts in proper lawn maintenance, you may wish to visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/parters/for_homeowners.html

Q. Why is Saturday a "non-watering" day?

A. Historically, customers use more water on Saturdays than any other day of the week. Saturdays are typically peak tourist days, resulting in a much greater water demand than any other weekday.