

Garden watering restrictions

Garden watering rules are in place all year round allowing plenty of opportunities to keep plants well watered. They promote watering during cooler times of the day to avoid evaporation.

THESE RESTRICTIONS ALLOW:

- sprinklers and unattended hoses to be used from **6am–8am** and **7pm–9pm** on alternate odd/even days.
(Odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days and vice versa.)
- careful use of a hand-held hose at any time.

Being water wise helps the environment and the reward is worth it. Plants and lawns will be greener, stronger and healthier – and they'll need less work in the long run too.

Wellington City Council will be monitoring summer garden water usage in the city and reminding people of the restrictions.

Good gardening guide for summer

ALWAYS USE GOOD MULCH. Mulches can retain up to 70 percent of the water which would otherwise be lost through evaporation, by protecting the soil from the drying effects of the sun and wind. They are a cheap and easy way to make the most of water in the garden. If you don't have a compost heap, start one with lawn clippings, leaves, garden rubbish and food scraps. Good organic mulch will also improve the soil structure.

REMOVE WEEDS, BECAUSE THEY COMPETE FOR WATER. Once they have been removed, good mulch will stop other weeds from taking root.

DON'T USE YOUR HOSE LIKE A BROOM TO CLEAR PATHS OR YOUR DRIVEWAY. Using your hose to 'sweep' these areas can waste more than 1,000 litres per hour.



For more information call 499 4444.

Saving water in the garden



Why conserve water?

During the summer a massive amount of Wellington City's water supply goes on watering gardens and outdoor use.

By observing some fairly simple water restrictions and by following our tips on being water wise and how to look after your lawns and gardens, residents can still ensure their gardens continue to thrive over the hot summer months, without putting undue stress on the city's water supply.



Wise watering tips

CHECK SOIL MOISTURE FIRST – if your soil is moist 10cm below the surface and downwards, you don't need to water.

LET THE RAIN WATER FOR YOU – check the weather forecast. If rain is on the way tomorrow you don't need to water today. Plants only need a thorough watering every fourth day.

SOAK DON'T SPRINKLE – a deep soaking every four days encourages feeder roots to grow deeper, making them hardier and giving them access to deeper soil moisture. Frequent watering makes your plants shallow rooted and more dependent on you for survival.

WATER EARLY OR LATE – watering your garden during the heat of the day is wasteful because much of the water will evaporate before it even reaches the roots.

WATER THE ROOTS NOT THE LEAVES – watering the leaves of trees and shrubs is not beneficial. It just increases the water loss through evaporation. In fact, on hot sunny days, doing this may damage your plants. Instead, water the roots thoroughly every fourth day.

DON'T OVER-WATER – just as too little water can damage plants, too much can be just as bad. Over-watering encourages fungus diseases such as root rot, rusts, mildews and blackspot.

USE A SPRINKLER WITH A TIMER – a timer allows you to control the amount of water delivered to your garden and at what times. A forgotten sprinkler can waste more than 1,000 litres of water an hour.

USE A TRIGGER HOSE – you can direct water where you need it without wasting a drop. It lets you stop and start the water flow as you move around. Remember to turn off the tap when you've finished otherwise the hose may spring a leak.

Looking after your lawn

The best way to keep your lawn green during summer is to aerate the soil, feed but don't over fertilise it, and water it only every four days to toughen the grass and encourage roots to spread deeper.

It is a good idea to let the grass grow taller. A healthy lawn has 25–30mm of leaf which provides shade for the roots and soil, protects from sunburn and slows evaporation.

Lawns grow better with a good drink every four days. Put a couple of ice-cream containers on your lawn at different distances from the sprinkler and turn it on. When the water averages 10mm deep your lawn has had enough. Don't forget to adjust your timer accordingly.

Just 10mm of water is enough to give your lawn and garden a good soaking.

