



## **ODD/EVEN Watering Restriction Frequently Asked Questions**

MVD has a year-round Odd/Even Watering Restriction which limits the use of irrigation and sprinklers based on your street address and the calendar date. The following are answers to the most frequently asked questions. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.mvdwater.org](http://www.mvdwater.org), follow us on [Facebook](#), and [subscribe](#) to receive email notifications.

**Q: Why do you restrict the usage, is there a shortage...?**

**A:** Irrigation and sprinklers have the highest rate of water consumption. If everyone waters every day, the demand will spike. The production rate for MVD's four active wells is steady. Peaks in consumption are supplied by three storage tanks. Based on the permits from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau (DWGB), MVD's wells are permitted to withdraw a maximum specified quantity of water from the ground per minute. Additionally, the storage tanks cannot fill up faster than the combined maximum permissible production rate of all producing wells combined; meaning there is only so much water we are permitted to produce at a time. Therefore, the tanks need to replenish overnight to be ready to meet the demands of peak usage. Additionally, MVD is required to maintain a certain level of water in the tanks to maintain pressure for potential use by the Town of Merrimack's Fire Department. Watering restrictions allow water withdrawal from the aquifer in a controlled manner which helps protect against seasonal fluctuations and aids in maintaining sufficient supply. So, the ultimate purpose of MVD's watering restrictions are to assist in managing the water distribution system to ensure we comply with the NHDES DWGB rules and regulations, meet the Merrimack Fire Department requirements, as well as maintain adequate supply for residential and commercial usage. To make certain this is achieved MVD staff adjusts production rates to match demand and continuously monitors the water distribution system, the weather conditions & forecasts to determine if additional watering restrictions or bans are necessary.

**Q: Is there a restriction on what time I can water?**

**A:** The **Odd/Even Watering Restriction** does not restrict the time of day for watering; however, we ask that customers always use discretion and be conservative when watering (ex. water in early morning - there's less evaporation).

***Note: This is subject to change at the discretion of MVD based upon supply/demand requirements as well weather related events, such as drought conditions; LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2 Restrictions DO include time limitations.***

**Q: I just seeded my lawn and I'm supposed to water it 2-3 times per day... Can we water new lawns...?**

**A:** It **MAY** be possible, but you **MUST** contact our office as it depends on multiple variables such including the weather forecasts, water supply, as well as other factors.

**Q: Can I use a hand-held hose to water my lawn?**

**A:** No, hand-held hoses are limited to vegetable and flower gardens only.

**Q: Can I water my garden?**

**A:** Yes, hand-hoses are permitted for watering vegetable and flower gardens.

**Q: What happens if I just choose to water every day?**

**A:** Please be advised - MVD's watering restrictions are strictly enforced. MVD's field staff monitors and tracks service locations. The first violation will result in a warning letter. Further violations will result in fees, and if violations persist MVD will terminate the water service. (Refer to MVD By-Law 1.D.)

**2 Greens Pond Rd Merrimack, NH**

**Phone: 603-424-9241 Fax: 603-424-0563**

**Website: [www.mvdwater.org](http://www.mvdwater.org) Email: [customerservice@mvdwater.org](mailto:customerservice@mvdwater.org)**

**Q: What if I got a notice because I accidentally watered on the wrong day?**

**A:** The first notice is a warning, intended to make you aware of the restrictions. While we understand that mistakes happen, we do have to hold all customers accountable to the same By-Laws and we cannot rescind a notice.

**Q: Why did I get a notice?**

**A:** The notice will provide information as to what the issue was. Typically, the notice is given for watering on the incorrect odd/even scheduled day. If you have an irrigation system, please be sure to check and set it properly - especially after electrical outage as this can cause the system to reset to a defaulted watering schedule.

**Q: Can we turn on the sprinkler for our kids to play in?**

**A:** If it is the correct odd/even day, yes. If it is not, unfortunately the answer is no. Please understand we are not trying to hinder kids having fun in the hot summer weather, but if we were to permit sprinkler use for those with kids we would also have to permit it for those who do not have kids, which would defeat the purpose of the odd/even restrictions.

**Q: When does the odd/even schedule end?**

**A:** The odd/even restriction is year-round per our Conservation Plan on file with NH DES.

**Q: How do I know if there are additional restrictions in place?**

**A:** Notifications are posted on our website at [www.mvdwater.org](http://www.mvdwater.org) as well as our [Facebook](#) page, and emails are sent to those who have [subscribed](#) to receive notices.

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