

## Water Restrictions

Steve King

What is it, a law?

The Statewide Water Use Restriction as imposed by Administrative Order 2002-05 dated March 4, 2002 citing Water Supply Management Act, N.J.S.A. 58:1A - 1 et seq. and implementing water supply allocation rules N.J.A.C. 7:19 - 13.3.

So what does this mean? It means every drop counts. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bradley Campbell, implemented the Statewide Water Use Restriction. Burlington County is in the southwest region and all regions of the State are in emergency conditions. The water deficits are as great as minus 19 inches.

Here are a few of the restrictions that affect us:

- Residential swimming pools can be filled; hot tubs, spas and jacuzzis are allowed under certain criteria. Topping of pools is permitted.
- Commercial power washing is permitted with established limits.
- New sod or newly seeded lawn associated with new construction is permitted.
- Watering of trees, shrubs, vegetable or flower gardens is permitted.
- Watering of athletic fields is permitted under certain criteria.
- Watering for agricultural purposes is permitted with limitations.
- Public and commercial establishments with showers must retrofit showerheads for low flow.
- Car washing at home is allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Washing of any paved surface (driveway, garage, patio) is prohibited.
- Serving of water in public eating establishments is prohibited unless requested.
- Use of fire hydrants is prohibited.
- Lawn watering is prohibited except in the central and coastal north drought regions, where an odd/even system is allowed.
- All open burning is prohibited, with limited exceptions.
- Any local or county government may impose their own more stringent water restrictions, provided they do not conflict with state or federal law.

Municipal and county law enforcement agencies, as well as state law enforcement agencies, are responsible for enforcing restrictions.

For the most up-to-date and complete information about New Jersey's water shortage, mandatory water-use restrictions, drought regions, information meetings and suggestions on how everyone can voluntarily save water: call the NJ Drought Hotline at 1-800-4-ITS-DRY (1-800-448-7379) or visit the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection web site at [Http://WWW.njdrought.org](http://WWW.njdrought.org).

If your County Emergency Management team can ever be of assistance please don't hesitate calling us at **609-265-7124**.