

STAGE 3 water restrictions apply across Melbourne

1. Lawns

Lawns cannot be watered at any time with potable (drinking) water.

2. Residential Gardens

Watering Days – using a date based approach

EVEN and no-numbered properties may water on even dates e.g. 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc. (within specified times).

ODD numbered properties may water on odd dates e.g. 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc. (within specified times).

Everyone may water on the 31st.

Watering Times

Manual Watering

Manual dripper systems, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering cans or buckets can be used to water plants as required on alternate days between 6 am – 8 am.

If someone in your household is aged 70 years or over, you may water your plants manually at the alternate time of 8 am – 10 am.

Automatic Watering

Automatic dripper systems can be used to water plants as required on alternate days between midnight – 2 am.

3. Public Gardens

Using a date based approach, manual dripper systems can be used to water gardens as required on alternate days from 6 am – 10 am and 8 pm – midnight.

Automatic dripper systems can be used to water gardens as required on alternate days from midnight – 8 am.

A hand-held hose fitted with trigger nozzle, watering can and bucket can be used to water gardens as required on alternate days from 6 am – 10 am.

Alternatively a Public Garden can be watered in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan approved by your local water business.

4. Sportsgrounds

Councils and schools can water sportsgrounds in accordance with the Drought Response Plan or submit a water conservation plan. Special allowances are made for exempt playing surfaces which include: turf cricket wickets, golf tees and greens (not fairways), tennis courts, bowling greens, hockey pitches, running tracks, croquet greens.

5. Pond or Lake

A new or existing pond or lake must not be topped up or filled. To top up or fill an existing pond or lake that sustains aquatic fauna or bird life, you must have written permission from your local water business.

6. Fountain or Water Feature

A fountain or water feature can only be operated if it recirculates the water used. It must not be topped up or filled.

7. Residential or Commercial Pools and Spas

A new pool or spa cannot be filled with drinking water. However, a new swimming pool or spa may be filled with an alternative water source such as groundwater.

An existing pool or spa of less than 2,000 litres may be filled by means of a watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap.

An existing pool or spa greater than 2,000 litres must not be filled except in accordance with a water conservation plan (contact your local water business for more information).

An existing pool or spa can be topped up with a watering can or bucket, filled directly from a tap.

8. Municipal Pools

A new municipal pool or spa can only be filled for the first time in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan approved by your local water business.

An existing municipal pool or spa can only be filled or topped with approval from your local water business.

9. Mobile Spa

A mobile spa must not be topped up or filled.

10. Water Toy

A water toy must not be used at anytime.

11. Dam or Tank

A dam or tank may be filled or topped up for the purposes of fire fighting, public health or livestock use. For any other purposes, written permission must be granted by your local water business.

12. Water Tanker

A water tanker may be filled or topped if a permit is issued by your local water business. A permit will only be granted if the water is supplied for use: inside a dwelling, for fire fighting, stock watering, construction, dust suppression and other public health purposes.

13. Commercial Market Garden and Commercial/Council Plant Nursery

Water may be used to irrigate any garden, plant stock, seeds or produce if written permission is granted by your local water business. Signage displaying written permission must be erected.

Automatic or manual watering systems can be used for an aggregate maximum of three hours per day using the irrigation system OR a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle (or equivalent), watering can or bucket can be used at anytime.

14. Vehicles

A bucket filled directly from a tap may be used to clean windows, mirrors and lights; and spot-remove corrosive substances.

15. Commercial Car Wash

An efficient commercial car wash that uses 70 litres or less per vehicle can be used. The owner of the business is required to obtain approval of a Water Conservation Plan which will require signs to be displayed verifying compliance. For further information contact your local water business.

16. Motor Vehicle Dealer

A bucket filled from a tap may be used to clean windows, mirrors and lights; and spot-remove corrosive substances unless a commercial car wash (or equivalent) is operating at the site.

If a mobile commercial car wash (or equivalent) is operating at the site, it must comply with the requirements of a Commercial Car Wash.

17. Food Transport Vehicle

A high-pressure cleaning device or a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used to clean the inside of vehicles. This may be done to avoid contamination of the vehicles contents or to ensure public safety.

18. Boat Motors

A suitable container filled by a hand-held hose can be used to clean outboard boat motors or a flushing device connected to a hose may be used provided the tap is turned off immediately after flushing is complete.

19. Hard Surfaces

Where required, a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used to clean hard surfaces in case of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency. Where required, a high-pressure water cleaner may be used to clean hard surfaces if construction/renovation work is occurring.

20. Building Façade (including windows)

A bucket filled directly from a tap, or a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used to clean a building façade as the result of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard. A bucket filled directly from a tap can be used for construction or renovation work.

Commercial window/facade washing businesses can apply for consideration for an exemption from your local water business.

21. Dust Suppression

A water tanker, hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or watering can be used to suppress dust during the course of construction activity for health and environmental reasons.

22. Construction

A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket or other container filled directly from a tap can be used in construction. Water can be used for construction equipment requiring a water supply for its safe and efficient operation and also for initial testing and flushing of pipes.

23. Animal Husbandry (keeping/raising/breeding of animals)

Water may be used for animal consumption and the cleaning of animals and birds. A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle may be used to clean pens, yards and cages.

24. Commercial Poultry Farm

Water may be used to cool a shed of a commercial poultry farm with sprinklers between 6 am – 9 pm, but only when the inside temperature of the shed reaches 30 degrees Celsius.

Fogging systems and cooling pads may be used at anytime.

Penalties and enforcement

Stage 3 water restrictions must be followed and water patrols are out in force across Melbourne. If you breach the restrictions, you may have your water supply restricted and face fines.

To report a breach, call 13WATER (139 2837).

Greywater, rainwater and recycled water can be used at any time.

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