

Water Conservation

Mandatory Odd/Even Watering

The City of Prineville Public Works Department, wishes to remind its Customers that all yard irrigation must occur during the following times:

-All Residents that have an even house number will water on even days of the month.

-All residents that have an odd house number will water on odd days of the month.

-Watering hours are from 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

This schedule will help the Public Works Department to manage the current water supply and reduce “spikes” in the system caused by many people watering their yards at the same time. The Public Works Department will be monitoring compliance with this policy and greatly appreciates the public’s understanding in this matter.

Backflow Device Testing Reminder

City Ordinance and Oregon Health Code requires that backflow prevention devices be installed at any location where a possible cross-contamination of the public water system could occur. Commonly, backflows are installed on all outdoor sprinkler systems, pools, and some fire suppression systems.

If your home is equipped with a backflow prevention device, it must be tested annually by a certified testing contractor. Customers with backflow prevention devices installed will soon be receiving letters with approved Central Oregon testing companies.

Please make it part of your “Spring Procedure” to have your backflow prevention device tested prior to beginning your Summer irrigation.

City of Prineville Public Works Department

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City of Prineville

Important Summer Watering Information



***Help save water while
reducing your monthly bill.***

Information Inside.

Public Works Department

Tel: 541-447-5627

Water Conservation Tips

Water the lawn only when and where needed.

Step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move your foot, it does not need water. Additionally, drier areas require more water than areas where water settles. If necessary, water these areas by hand.

Use a soil probe to test soil moisture.

Water only when a soil probe shows dry soil or a screwdriver is difficult to push into the soil.

Don't Water the Pavement.

Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not areas where it is not needed. Also, avoid watering when it is windy. Wind causes water to evaporate quickly and blows water onto areas where it is not needed. Remember, if it doesn't grow, don't water it.

Water Without Waste.

Interrupt watering when puddles or run-off occur. This allows the water to penetrate into the soil before resuming irrigation.

Use shut-off nozzles on hoses.

Shut-off nozzles completely turn off the water when you are not using it.

Keep lawn free of weeds.

Weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients. Spot spray or remove weeds as they appear.

Choose an automatic irrigation system.

An automatic sprinkler system can be set to water the lawn for a specified amount of time. This saves your time and waters the lawn evenly. If you don't have an automatic system, set a kitchen timer. A lot of water can be wasted in a short period of time if you forget to turn your sprinklers off. Outdoor faucets can flow up to 300 gallons per hour.

Accept a less lush lawn.

Grass will naturally go dormant during periods of drought, but will readily regenerate when water becomes available. Reduce traffic on stressed turf areas if possible.

Mow more effectively, not more.

Mowing puts grass under additional stress that requires more water. Longer leaf surfaces promote deeper rooting and shade the root zone. Never remove more than 1/3rd of the leaf blade in one mowing. Mow as infrequently as possible, and return mulched clippings to the lawn.

Keep lawn free of weeds.

Weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients. Spot spray or remove weeds as they appear.

Use a broom to clean the driveway and sidewalk.

Sweeping the driveway and sidewalk will get them clean enough without wasting gallons of water.

Plant drought resistant trees and plants: Xeriscape

Landscape with plants that require less water. These plants can be very attractive and can survive through drought better than turf. Rocks, gravel, benches, and deck areas can all be used to creatively decorate the yard.

Use a cistern to collect rain water

1,000 square feet of roof or pavement can collect 420 gallons of water from 1-inch of rain. Rooftops or any sloping surface such as a driveway are prime "catchment" areas for rainwater. Store the collected water in a cistern, and siphon it off to water your garden or lawn. A plastic or metal garbage container can easily be converted to a cistern by attaching a spigot and hose. Locate your cistern close to wherever you plan to use water.

"Spring Turnover" at the Waste Water Plant

Prineville's wastewater treatment lagoon system experiences "Spring Turnover". As the lagoons warm up, biological activity increases, the water at the bottom of the pond circulates to the surface, and gasses produced at the bottom may be released to the atmosphere for a few days as the system reaches warm weather equilibrium. The released gases may cause offensive odors for a short period.

Prineville's Public Works staff applies odor controlling chemicals to the ponds and do their best to minimize the odors, but cannot totally control Mother Nature. Residents may notice bad odors from the ponds for a few days during the Spring Turn-over event.



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