

31 October 2024

Dear Customer

Water Supply Update – Spring 2024

With winter behind us, here's some information and ideas as we head into warmer weather.

Spring & Summer sprinkler restrictions

The State Government has implemented permanent water efficiency measures statewide to address our drying climate, and the impact on our water sources. **Water restrictions** are now in place for bore and scheme water users, so that we carefully use and conserve this valuable resource when we need it most.

From 1 September until 31 May, a watering roster applies to water users across most of WA. During this period, there are specific days each week when you are able to water your garden.

A 2-day per week scheme roster applies in the Chittering area.

Gardens can only be watered <u>once</u> on your allocated days, but <u>not</u> between 9am and 6pm. Please schedule your sprinklers and reticulation accordingly.

Anyone found using sprinklers between 9am and 6pm, or outside their rostered days can be fined. If reticulation is installed by a landscape contractor, builder or developer, **the property owner** is responsible for any breaches.

If you suspect an individual or organisation being in breach of the watering roster or wasting water, we encourage you to submit the details to us so it can be investigated.

Roster

Sprinkler roster days are based on the last digit of your house number. Where there is no house number, the lot number is to be used.

The table below shows what water roster days apply to your property.



* You may water once per day on your allocated days, but no watering between 9am and 6pm.

* To find your watering days, take the last digit of your house number and apply it to the water roster, eg 14 Wildflower Street – last digit of your house number is 4, so your roster days are Tuesday and Saturday ONLY. If your property does not have an assigned house number, please use the last digit of your lot number.

The <u>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website</u> has more information on WA's sprinkler restrictions.

Please check your reticulation systems now to make sure you are complying with Government's 2-day a week sprinkler roster.



How much water does your garden need?

On average WA households use around two-thirds of their water in the garden. On bigger properties that percentage can be even higher! Making sure you water efficiently is an easy way to save water and ensure your plants get the water they need to survive.

When is the best time to water?

You can help your plants by watering when it matters. You only need to water once on your <u>rostered watering days</u>, even if you're using a bore.

On your rostered days, make sure you're watering either before 9am or after 6pm. Watering in the morning is best as the cooler temperature means less evaporation and allows plants to use water throughout the day when they need it most.

Hand watering

You can hand water any day of the week, preferably before 9am. Using a watering can or handheld hose with a nozzle is the most efficient way to hit the root zone and target specific plants that need water more than others. It also helps to avoid over watering.

How much should I water?

In Perth and the South West, your garden and lawn only need 10mm of water, twice a week in summer to sustain your garden and keep it healthy. This amount of water is ideal for filtering down to most plants' feeding roots.

Watering more than this doesn't provide your plants with any additional benefit. Overwatering can contribute to leaching vital nutrients from the soil.

Can I water my new lawn or garden more frequently?

If you are installing a new lawn or garden, to help it establish you may be eligible for <u>a temporary</u> <u>exemption</u> to allow you to water your lawn or garden outside the watering roster times.

You MUST apply to Muchea Water to be granted this exemption.

Without a temporary watering exemption, any watering outside of your sprinkler roster days, or during the day (between 9am and 6pm), is considered a breach and will result in a fine.

Please be mindful that you will be charged for all the water you use, including that used with a temporary watering exemption. It is likely that you will use additional water whilst establishing a lawn or garden. The additional water you use may result in a higher water bill. Refer to the <u>Billing</u> <u>page</u> on our website for details of current pricing and charges.

Maintain your reticulation system

Reticulation systems use a lot of water and can often be the reason for a <u>high water bill</u>. You are charged for all the water you use. By programming your tap timers and reticulation system correctly and regularly checking your system, you'll nurture your garden, while using water efficiently.

Being waterwise - saving water in the garden

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has published information on how you can help save water by planting native gardens, mulching, collecting rainwater and using fertiliser wisely. See <u>Being waterwise - saving water in the garden</u>.

Help & Advice page

You can find more information, tips and advice on our website's <u>Help & Advice page</u>. Please check it out and give us your feedback or other topics you'd like added.

We hope you find this information of assistance. If you have other questions, you can reach out at any time via the 'Contact us' page on our website, at: <u>www.mucheawater.com.au/contact-us/</u>

Kind regards

Customer Support