

# 2008 OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Updated December 30, 2008

Much of North Georgia remains at Drought Level 4 and at Level 4 Variances. Variances to Drought Level 4 have been approved for several water utilities. Please see table included in this document for listing of counties/cities who have received variances. Complete variance information can be found at [www.gawp.org](http://www.gawp.org) \*

If you are in North Georgia, and your county or city is not listed in the table below with a different Level, you will operate under the following rules:

## The following is allowed under Level 4 Drought Restrictions:

Established landscapes can be hand-watered by any person\*\*

- For 25 minutes between 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. (\*hand watering is defined as one person with one garden hose with a spray nozzle that shuts off automatically when it is released)
- Watering is restricted to the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays
- Even-numbered addresses: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Newly installed landscapes may be watered
  - *By any person who has registered with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program - must receive new certificate after first 10 weeks expires.*
  - **FOR ALL NEW LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION - a new certificate must be obtained - property owner must re-register and take the program even if they received certificate for earlier planting in 2008.**
  - Watering is allowed for 30 days during a period of 10 weeks
  - Watering is restricted to the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
  - 3 days/week for 10 consecutive weeks on an odd/even schedule
    - Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays
    - Even-numbered addresses: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
    - *During installation, new landscapes may be watered in at any time of the day*
    - *Installed irrigation systems may be used to water only new landscape installation area.*
  - Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is available:
    - At your county extension service office (1-800-ASK-UGA1) - **PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR AN APPOINTMENT.** There is no fee for the program if taken at extension service office.
    - Online at [www.urbanagcouncil.com](http://www.urbanagcouncil.com) - \$ 4.95 convenience fee charge
    - Each landscape company needs to register for this program (may copy certificate for use at multiple addresses).
    - Each landscape company's clients (homeowner/property owner or manager) must also complete this program for each property they own or manage.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Level IV Drought Response Outdoor Water Use Rule, Schedules and Restrictions for Residential and Commercial Customers of EPD-Permitted Water Providers

December 9, 2008

*The document answers questions related to the Outdoor Water Use Rule, schedules and restrictions of the Level IV Drought Response.*

### 1) What is a Level IV Drought Response?

In 2003, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division developed the first Drought Management Plan for Georgia. The Plan consists of pre-drought mitigation strategies and drought response strategies. There are four levels of drought response, which are implemented according to the severity of drought conditions.

In Level IV, NO outdoor water use is allowed, other than for activities exempted in 391-3-30-.05 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use, as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Director may order, or as otherwise provided for in House Bill 1281 as adopted by the 2008 General Assembly and signed by the Governor on May 17, 2008.

Many counties in North Georgia are designated in the Level IV Drought Response; however, the amount of available water in this broad geographic area varies greatly from water system to water system – even between systems that are adjacent to each other. Therefore, EPD developed a rigorous tool to predict the amount of water available to a system when water use and availability are compared to worse case drought scenarios (generally Summer 2007). Using this tool, EPD subdivided Level IV into specific, relaxed sub-categories represented by Levels IVa, IVb and IVc (see box below). Water providers that do not withdraw water directly from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River between Buford and Peachtree Creek may petition EPD for authorization to impose these more relaxed restrictions on outdoor water use.

Citizens are encouraged to contact their water provider for the most up-to-date information on outdoor water use restrictions and schedules in their area.

**Level IV** – No outdoor watering except for exemptions provided for in Section 391-3-30-05 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use;

**Level IVa** - Odd/even watering 1 day per week between midnight and 10:00 am: At the discretion of the permittee, odd addresses water on Sundays or Thursdays, even/unnumbered addresses water on Mondays or Saturdays;

**Level IVb** - Odd/even watering 2 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays and Thursdays, even on Mondays and Wednesdays. At the discretion of the permittee odd addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays, even/unnumbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays;

**Level IVc** - Odd/even watering 3 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, even/unnumbered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

**2) What is outdoor water use and to whom does the Outdoor Water Use Rule, schedules and restrictions apply?**

Outdoor water use includes activities such as irrigating landscapes, washing vehicles, hard surfaces or buildings, water use for decorative fountains or ponds, and others. Pursuant to HB1281 filling and maintaining swimming pools is not considered to be an outdoor water use.

The schedules and restrictions outlined in the Rules for Outdoor Water Use apply to customers (households and businesses) who receive water from an entity (public or private) with a water withdrawal permit or a permit to operate a drinking water system from EPD.

Individual water providers are responsible for the enforcement of the Outdoor Water Use Rule, schedules and restrictions.

**3) What uses are exempted and therefore allowed by Section 391-3-30-.05 of the Outdoor Water Use Rule?**

- a. Capture and re-use of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances.
- b. Re-use of gray water in compliance with applicable local ordinances.
- c. Use of reclaimed wastewater by a designated user from a system permitted by EPD to provide reclaimed wastewater.
- d. Irrigation of personal food gardens.
- e. Water use, circulation and aeration for ponds or fountains, which maintain aquatic life.
- f. Water may be used to wash hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks driveways, school buses, fire trucks, emergency vehicles and police cars ONLY when necessary for public health and safety.
- g. Water may be used to water-in pesticides and herbicides.
- h. Landscape professionals who hold a valid business license may use water to hydro-seed a lawn.
- i. Landscape and irrigation contractors who hold a valid business license may use water during installation of irrigation equipment and as needed for proper maintenance and adjustments only.
- j. Sod producers, food and fiber producers, ornamental growers, fruit and vegetable growers, nurseries and retail garden centers may water their stock.
- k. Power-washing contractors who hold a valid business license may use water to run their power-washing equipment for customers.

- l. Water may be used on construction sites.
- m. Water may be used for commercial car wash operations.
- n. Water may be used for other activities essential to daily business (This exemption refers to activities that are part of a primary operation of a business. For example, a window washing business or a mobile car wash business is included in this category).

**4) What uses are authorized and therefore allowed by the Director's Order (February 11, 2008) or by HB 1281?**

a) Filling swimming pools

Each household, business or other institution/property owner may fill swimming pools without restrictions on day or time.

b) Hand-watering (plants, seed and turf)

Each household, business or other institution/property owner may use one garden hose equipped with a standard spray nozzle that automatically turns off when the nozzle is released, 25 minutes during the designated days and times to hand-water landscaping. This includes existing landscapes as well as small, newly installed landscape areas (i.e., flowerbeds, containers, etc.).

- Allowed watering hours are within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses may water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses may water Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

c) Irrigating newly installed landscapes

New landscaping (plants, seed and turf) may be installed by anyone (professional or homeowner/property owner) and may be watered with an in-ground irrigation system, above ground hose-end sprinkler, soaker hose, drip or any type of low-volume irrigation system during the designated days and times for up to 10 weeks upon registration with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program ([www.outdoorwateruse.com](http://www.outdoorwateruse.com)).

- A "newly installed landscape" is any plant, seed or turf that has been in place less than 30 days.
- **Replanting or reseeding an existing lawn is considered a newly installed landscape.**
- As the landscaping is being installed, it may be watered in at any time of the day.
- Allowed watering hours are within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses may water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- Even-numbered addresses may water Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is intended and designed to educate and inform participants about global water resources, Georgia's water resources, best landscape practices and proper watering techniques. There are two ways to obtain a certificate. Each requires a participant to successfully complete the program by reviewing and understanding a presentation and passing a test with at least 70% correct answers.

County Extension Office

Call a local County Extension Office to make an appointment to complete the Program. There is no cost for this option. Locate a County Extension Office by calling 1-800-ASK-UGA1, or by visiting [www.ugaextension.org](http://www.ugaextension.org), then selecting "Local Offices."

Online

Complete the Program online by choosing the Outdoor Water Use Registration button on [www.outdoorwateruse.com](http://www.outdoorwateruse.com). A credit card is required to pay the convenience fee of \$4.95 for the online option. For technical assistance with this option, contact [help@outdoorwateruse.com](mailto:help@outdoorwateruse.com).

## \* Variances to Level 4 Drought Restrictions

Water utilities in the level 4 drought response area who do NOT depend on Lake Lanier and directly on releases from Buford Dam can petition EPD for a modified drought response (Level IVa, IVb, IVc):

- Please note drought Level IV a and IV b (two days per week) allow additional watering opportunities for **established installations** (Level IV a - one day per week; IV b two days per week) but still require completion of the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program for new installation for 10 weeks/3 days per week watering.
- Level IV c allows 3 days per week watering for **all landscapes**; Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is not required for areas that are under Drought Level IVc.
- Level II allows 3 days per week watering for all landscapes during two time periods; Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is not required for all areas under Drought Level II.

o Level IVa - Odd/even watering 1 day per week between midnight and 10:00 am. At the discretion of the permittee, odd addresses water on Sundays or Thursdays, even addresses water on Mondays or Saturdays - *Completion of Outdoor Water Use Registration Program IS required for new installation use (10 weeks/3x per week).*

o Level IVb - Odd/even watering 2 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays and Thursdays, even on Mondays and Wednesdays. At the discretion of the permittee odd addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays, even addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays - *Completion of Outdoor Water Use Registration Program IS required for new installation use (10 weeks/3x per week).*

o Level IVc - Odd/even watering 3 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, even on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays - *Completion of Outdoor Water Use Registration Program IS NOT required.*

Level II (qualified) - Odd/even watering 3 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am and 4:00 pm to midnight; Odd on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, even on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays - *Completion of Outdoor Water Use Registration Program IS NOT required.*

The following water utilities have received variances - please check with your specific water provider to determine if other outdoor water use has been approved.

Name of Municipality	Level	Approval Date
Macon Water Authority	II qualified	7/21/2008
Barrow County	IV a	6/20/2008
Bartow County	IV a	7/23/2008
Cartersville - City of	IV a	6/26/2008
Hart County Water and Sewer Authority	IV a	8/12/2008
Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority	IV a	6/20/2008
Lavonia - City of	IV a	6/12/2008
Oconee County Board of Commissioners	IV a	6/20/2008
Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	IV a	6/20/2008
Adairsville - City of	IV b	8/14/2008
Ball Ground - City of	IV b	6/3/2008
Calhoun - City of	IV b	7/2/2008
Canton - City of	IV b	6/20/2008
Catoosa Utility District Authority	IV b	6/4/2008
Cave Springs - City of	IV b	8/24/2008
Chatsworth - City of	IV b	8/12/2008
Chickamauga - City of	IV b	6/3/2008
Dawsonville - City of	IV b	6/19/2008
Floyd County	IV b	6/24/2008
Hartwell - City of	IV b	6/26/2008
LaFayette - City of	IV b	6/20/2008
Locust Grove - City of	IV b	6/20/2008
Madison - City of	IV b	6/11/2008
Madison County ID and BA Water Department	IV b	6/10/2008
Monticello - City of	IV b	8/5/2008
Mount Vernon Mills, Inc.	IV b	6/25/2008
North Georgia Water Systems, Inc.***	IV b	8/24/2008
Polk County Water, Sewage and Solid Waste Authority	IV b	6/11/2008
Rockmart - City of	IV b	7/11/2008
Sky Valley - City of	IV b	10/29/2008
Trion -Town of	IV b	6/25/2008
Turin - Town of	IV b	7/21/2008
Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority	IV b	6/10/2008
Bent Tree Community	IV c	6/4/2008
Carroll County	IV c	6/9/2008
Carrollton - City of	IV c	6/6/2008
Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority	IV c	6/3/2008
Clayton County Water Authority	IV c	6/4/2008
Commerce - City of	IV c	6/10/2008
Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority	IV c	5/27/2008

Dalton Utilities	IV c	7/24/2008
Elberton - City of	IV c	6/15/2008
Fayette County	IV c	6/10/2008
Fort Oglethorpe - City of	IV c	6/25/2008
Henry County	IV c	6/12/2008
LaGrange - City of	IV c	6/2/2008
McDonough - City of	IV c	7/8/2008
Monroe - City of	IV c	6/24/2008
Newnan Utilities	IV c	6/2/2008
Rockdale County Board of Commissioners	IV c	7/11/2008
Rome - City of	IV c	6/5/2008
Stockbridge - City of	IV c	6/18/2008
Toccoa - City of	IV c	6/13/2008
Waleska - City of	IV c	7/9/2008
Woodbury - City of	IV c	7/11/2008
Dahlonega - City of *	FULL BAN	9/5/2008
Sky Valley - City of *	FULL BAN	6/25/2008

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60 central Georgia counties are now at Drought Level 2, including 6 counties who have been moved from Level 4 to Level 2 (Muscogee, Harris, Spalding, Butts, Jasper and Greene counties). The Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is not required under Drought Level 2. If your county has gone to Drought Level Two you must revert back to the language found in the Outdoor Water Use rule:

[http://www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/rules/rules\\_exist/391-3-30.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/rules/rules_exist/391-3-30.pdf)

#### Drought Level 2

- New landscapes may be watered for 30 consecutive days between midnight and 10 am. Professionally installed new landscapes have a commercial exemption and may be watered anytime of day for 30 consecutive days. Existing landscapes in Drought Level Two may be watered from midnight until 10 am on the odd even system.
- Level 2 drought response area includes Atkinson, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Coffee, Columbia, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Houston, Irwin, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lamar, Lee, Macon, Marion, Mc Duffie, Monroe, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Tift, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wilcox, Wilkinson, and Worth counties.

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#### 44 middle and south Georgia counties are now at Drought Level 1.

Drought Level one is the least restrictive level and outdoor water may be used between midnight and 10 am and 4 pm to midnight on the odd/even house number system.

- Level 1 drought response area includes Appling, Bacon, Baker, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glynn, Grady, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Liberty, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Miller, Montgomery, Mitchell, Pierce, Screven, Seminole, Tattnall, Thomas, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Wayne and Wheeler counties.