



Town of Topsfield Mandatory Water Restrictions

The Topsfield Water Department has instituted a Mandatory Outdoor Water Use Ban effective September 5, 2008. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requires the implementation of specific outdoor water use restrictions when the average daily streamflow for the Ipswich River, as recorded at the United States Geological Survey's Ipswich Gauge Station, falls below 52.5 cubic feet per second for more than three consecutive days. Flows below this minimum level are not adequate to support fish and other river-dependent life.

Nonessential outdoor water use is prohibited from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and is limited to hand-held hoses or buckets from 5 P.M. until 9 A.M. the following day. The use of automatic irrigation systems at any time is strictly prohibited. Outdoor water use that has an immediate health or safety impact, is required by regulation or is needed to meet the core functions of a business is permitted. We ask water be used conservatively in these cases.

Recent amendments made to the Town's Water Restriction Bylaw will not take affect until the changes are approved by the Attorney General's Office. We ask that private well users follow the restrictions but are not required to at this time.

In addition to curtailing outdoor water use, the Water Department encourages the following conservation measures:

- Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.
- Fix any leaks around the house.
- Install water efficient toilets, faucets and showerheads.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, rather than running the faucet.
- Consider replacing water intensive lawns with a xeriscape (low water demand) flower garden. The Water Department has several guide books that are available to residents. Please call us at (978) 887-1518 for more information.

Water Department customers found to be in violation of the mandatory restrictions are subject to the following penalties:

First Violation:	Warning
Second Violation:	\$50.00
Third Violation:	\$100.00
Fourth and subsequent Violations:	\$300.00

Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

Please call the Water Department at (978) 887-1517 if you have any questions.