

District Newsletter--Summer 2003

New Rates:

As of May 1, 2003 Denver Water will be increasing their drought surcharge from \$.50 to \$3.00 for anything over 70% of 2001 historical usage. Therefore, Green Mountain Water has re-evaluated our water charges and the drought surcharge. The board has agreed to tier our rate. The following is a summary of the new water rates and drought surcharge rate:

Residential Customers:

Block Threshold	Water Rate	Surcharge Rate
Minimum Use 0-18k gal	\$2.20/1000 gal	\$0.00
Block 1 19-30k gal	\$2.31/1000 gal	\$1.50/1000gal
Block 2 31-60k gal	\$2.42/1000 gal	\$3.00/1000gal
Block 3 61+	\$6.00/1000 gal	\$6.00/1000gal

Commercial Customers:

Block Threshold	Water Rate	Surcharge Rate
Minimum Use 0-300k gal	\$2.41/1000 gal	\$0.00
Block 1 301-500k gal	\$2.41/1000 gal	\$0.75/1000gal
Block 2 501+	\$2.41/1000 gal	\$1.50/1000gal

Watering Rules:

Denver Water will be mailing a brochure outlining all watering restrictions and rules to all of our customers. Please note that Green Mountain Water & Sanitation District's water & drought surcharge rates supercede Denver Water's rates. The following is an outline of the new watering schedule and fines for violating the new restrictions and rules:

Residential Users:

No Lawn watering on Mondays or between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Water your lawn 15 minutes per irrigation zone two days each week. Lawns at odd numbered addresses may be watered on Saturday and Wednesday. Lawns at even numbered addresses may be watered on Sunday and Thursday.

Commercial Users:

Lawn watering is permitted on Tuesdays and Fridays **only** for 15 minutes per zone with no limit on the number of zones but not between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Commercial users with 1 1/2" or larger meters are **required** to file a water budget with the district before irrigating their turf areas.

Fines for violating drought restrictions are \$250.00 for the second violation, \$500.00 for the third violation and \$1000.00 for the fourth violation. Additional violations can result in a flow restrictor on the waterline or an interruption in water service. A warning will be issued for the first violation. Additional Charges, restriction or suspension of service may be imposed for water waste.

Note:

Green Mountain Water and Sanitation District will be required to follow any further water restrictions issued by the Denver Water Department. Please watch for any further announcements in the news media or in the message box on your water bills. If there are any changes in water restrictions or Drought Surcharges, the only additional notification will be included on your billing statement and on our website.

TIPS ON INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

- On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water every day. You can reduce your water use by as much as 30% if you are efficient.
- Check your toilets for leaks. Put a bit of food coloring in each toilet tank. **DO NOT FLUSH!** Check the bowl in 10 to 20 minutes. If the color has appeared in the bowl, you have a silent leak. It is probably located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. Other leaks in your toilet can occur at the overflow pipe. The water level should come up to about a half inch or so below the overflow pipe. Adjust the float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these leaks. That adds up to more than 30,000 gallons a year!
- Do not use your toilet as a waste basket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or an itty bitty spider, you waste 5 to 7 gallons of water.
- To cut down on water waste, put a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save 10 or more gallons of water a day. Do not use bricks. They tend to decompose over time and gum up your plumbing.
- Bathing is the second highest use of indoor water. Long hot showers can waste 5 to 10 gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- Turn off the water after you get your toothbrush wet and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
- Rinse your razor in the sink. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as well as running water.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine at full capacity. Dishwashers use 12 gallons per run and washing machines use 40 gallons at full load. If your machines can be adjusted for a lesser load, then please remember to do so when your washers are at less than capacity. Don't forget to check the hoses for leaks.
- If you do dishes by hand, use wash and rinse basins rather than running water.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator in a covered glass pitcher or jar. Running tap water to cool it off is wasteful. Besides, cold water directly from the fridge tastes better.
- Install water saving devices and flow restrictors as well as low flow aerators for your faucets.
- The district has a limited amount of water saving devices available free of charge at the Utah office. These are available on a first come, first serve basis. Items available are low flow aerators, low flow shower heads and toilet tank banks. We also have dye tablets to test your toilets for leaks. Come on by and pick some up!
- Check all shut off valves under your sinks and toilets for leaks as well. Be sure you locate and check the most important one of all, the main shut off valve. The most likely location for your main shut off would be where the water supply pipe enters your home, near your clothes washer hookup, or near your water heater. Be sure you mark it with a colorful tag, paint or bright ribbon. Make it easy to see. If the worst happens, and we hope it never does, you'll have to find it quickly.

Consider Xeriscaping

Xeriscape can be beautiful as well as drought tolerant and can be much more than rocks and mulch. Colorado is a semi-arid region and has an abundance of beautiful native plants. Denver Water and the American Water Works Association are great resources for xeriscaping information. Look for them on the web at <http://www.denverwater.org> and <http://www.awwa.org>, or stop by the office for brochures and information on creating your own xeric garden.

Bill Payment Alternatives

In addition to traditional mailing of payments and payment at the office, including a drive-up payment box in our parking lot, two additional payment alternatives have been instituted; Electronic Funds Transfer and Payment by Phone. Should you be interested in either of the new options, contact the office at 303-985-1581. There is no charge for the new options. As a reminder, the district has offered budget billing for several years.