

CITY OF TUCSON WATER WASTE ORDINANCE

In June 2000, the Mayor and Council approved revisions to Tucson Code 27-15, the Water Waste Ordinance.

“It is declared that, because safe, high quality potable water and reclaimed water are a precious resource, the general welfare requires that the water resources available to the city be put to maximum beneficial use, and that the waste or unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use, of water be prevented. For the purposes of this section, the person, corporation, or association in whose name the water utility of the city is or was last billed or who is receiving the benefit of the water supply on the premises, as defined under section 27-10, is presumed to have knowingly made, caused, used, or permitted the use of water received from the city for in a manner contrary to any provision of this section, if the water has been used in a manner contrary to any provision of this section.

(a) The following uses are a waste or unreasonable use or method of use of water and are prohibited:

- (1) Allowing water to escape from any premises onto public property, such as alleys or streets, or upon any other person’s property.
- (2) Allowing water to pond in any street or parking lot to a depth greater than one-quarter (1/4) inch or to permit water to pond over a cumulative surface area greater than one hundred fifty (150) square feet on any street or parking lot.
- (3) Washing driveways, sidewalks, parking

areas, or other impervious surface areas with an open hose, or with a spray nozzle attached to an open hose, or under regular or system pressure, except when required to eliminate conditions that threaten the public health, safety or welfare. This restriction does not apply to residential customers.

- (4) Operating a misting system in unoccupied non-residential areas.
 - (5) Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head or emitter, or with a head that is spraying more than ten (10) percent of the spray on a street, parking lot, or sidewalk; this prohibition does not apply unless the head or emitter was designed to deliver more than one (1) gallon of water per hour during normal use.
 - (6) Failing to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, or a leaking faucet.
- (b) Any person who violates any portion of this section is guilty of a civil infraction, and shall be fined upon the first offense, a minimum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250); and upon the second offense within a period of three (3) years and upon each subsequent conviction within such period, a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500). The imposition of civil liability shall not preclude the city from taking any other enforcement actions permitted under section 27-14 or section 27-97 of this chapter.”

(1953 Code, ch 25, § 16; Ord. No. 6096, § 1, 10-1-84; Ord. No 7547, § 2, 1-7-91; Ord. No. 9407, § 1, 6-19-00)

ENFORCEMENT

When a violation is observed, a written notice requiring the violation to be corrected will be given to the customer. A citation may be issued at this time or the responsible party may be given time to correct the problem. If the violation is not corrected within the specified time, a citation will be issued and a fine in the amount of \$250 per violation may be imposed for a first time offense. Subsequent violations are subject to a minimum fine of \$500 per violation and a maximum fine of \$2,500.

Despite the availability of penalties, the main effort of the Water Waste Enforcement program is educational, even after a citation has been issued. The money used to pay a fine would be much more effectively spent improving water use efficiency and eliminating waste. To that end, Tucson Water seeks fines primarily in cases where repeated water waste is occurring, where property owners or managers are unwilling to make necessary improvements, or where violations are intentional.

For more information about the Water Waste Ordinance, call 791-4331



*Si usted desea este en español, llame al 791-4331.
City of Tucson TTY# 791-2639
Visit our website: www.tucsonaz.gov/water/*

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NON-IRRIGATION WATER WASTE



CITY OF TUCSON WATER WASTE VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE



*Tucson Water Commercial
Conservation: 791-5080, ext. 1471*

WATER WASTE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE



Upon investigation of a water waste complaint, **Tucson Water may issue a citation immediately** upon observing a violation of the Water Waste Ordinance (see reverse). Within three days, Tucson Water will verify that the problem has been corrected.

Step 1. After Initial Investigation by Tucson Water staff

Immediately stop the source of water waste. If the water waste continues, a citation may be given at any time. Efforts should be made to correct any problems (i.e., repair leaks, replace spray nozzles, contact contractors) identified during the initial investigation.

Step 2. Investigate Options

- ◆ Look at the different strategies to fix the problem.
- ◆ Assess costs, time & labor required.
- ◆ Decide which options work best for your company.

Step 3. Develop an Action Plan

- ◆ Create a list of priority water management actions by considering those that are: 1.) no-cost, 2.) low-cost, and 3.) actions that require money.
- ◆ Develop a plan that outlines the actions and implementation schedule.

Step 4. Prepare for Follow-up by Tucson Water Staff

Three days after the initial investigation, Tucson Water Conservation Inspectors will revisit the site, investigate the problem areas, and review any repairs and changes.

Step 5. Citation

If corrections have not been made or audit/repair dates have not been scheduled, a citation will be issued for each offense and for each day that the violation continues. It is possible that a business could receive more than one citation per day for different violations (i.e. water escaping onto street & pooling to 1/4" in parking lot).



TIPS TO REDUCE WATER WASTE

Cooling Systems

- ◆ Reuse the cooling water elsewhere on the property if water quality and temperature are appropriate.
- ◆ Cooling towers:
 - Maximize cycles of concentration with efficient water treatment.
 - Increase the concentration ratio if < 5.
- ◆ Adjust floats to prevent excess overflow.
- ◆ Regularly check for valve and line leaks.

Heating Systems

- ◆ Reuse steam condensate water and boiler blow-down water where possible.

Pavement, Mat and Other Outdoor Washing

- ◆ Use high pressure sprayers for outdoor cleaning.
- ◆ Floor mats must be washed in an area that drains to the sewer not the street.
- ◆ Water from hood cleaning must be disposed of through the sewer system or vacuumed away.

Pools & Spas

- ◆ Use filter backwash water for landscape watering.
- ◆ Cover pools & spas when not in use.
- ◆ Adjust pool levels to minimize splash-out.

Vehicle Washing

- ◆ Install equipment that recycles water.
- ◆ Inspect and replace worn jets & parts.
- ◆ Adjust solenoids, valves, nozzles, and equipment to minimize water use.
- ◆ Check sump pumps regularly for breaks or blockages.

Misting Systems

- ◆ Maintain misting systems for proper pressure, unclog emitters, or minimize use.

Leak Detection & Repair

- ◆ Regularly inspect for leaks.
- ◆ Periodically check all main pipes for leaks. During non-business hours, check your meters. If the dial is moving when no equipment is running, you may have a leak.
- ◆ Repair all leaks promptly.

Gas Stations

- ◆ Do not hose the fueling area or use water and detergents to clean up.
- ◆ Use dry clean-up methods.

Nurseries

- ◆ Do not overwater plants. Be sure no water escapes the nursery area.
- ◆ Use high pressure sprayers for pavement cleaning. Contain and reuse water.