

# 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 resources, 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 knowingly made, causes, used, or permitted the use of water received from the city for 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 ¼ inch or to permit water to pond over a cumulative surface area greater than 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 a spray nozzle attached to an open hose, or under regular or system pressure, except when required to eliminate conditions that threaten 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 10 percent of the spray onto the street, parking lot, or sidewalk; this prohibition does not apply unless the head or emitter was designed to deliver more than one 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.”

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

**To report incidents of water waste, call Tucson Water at 791-3242.** Water Waste Ordinance 042707