

## Frequently Asked Questions New Water Restrictions By-Law No. 511 Stage 1



14 September 2009

### What hours can I water?

You can only use watering systems to water garden or lawn areas on alternate days (every second day)

If you have a manual system – the type you have to physically turn on or off – you can use it between 6am and 8am in the morning and between 8pm and 10pm in the evening

If you have an automatic system – the type that you pre-set and it comes on and off by itself - you can use it between midnight and 4am.

A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used at anytime on any day.

### I'm over 70 can I water at a different time?

If you are over 70 you can choose to use a manual watering system between 8am and 10am on alternate days rather than between 6am and 8am. You do not need an exemption for this.

### What does alternate days means?

- If you live in an odd number property you can water on odd numbered days of the month
- If you live in an even number property you can water on even numbered days of the month
- Everyone can water on 31<sup>st</sup> day of the month

### What is a manual watering system?

A manual watering system is the type that requires human intervention to turn it on and off.

### What is an automatic watering system?

An automatic watering system is the type that is capable of being set to turn on and off automatically, at pre-determined times, without human intervention.

### Can I fill up my swimming pool?

- If you have an existing pool you can only top it up using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or a watering can or bucket, filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.
- If you have an existing pool greater than 2,000 litres and you need to fill it by more than 25%, then you need to submit a water conservation plan for approval.
- If you have an existing pool less than 2,000 litres than you can only fill it using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or a watering can or bucket, filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.

### I want to put in a new pool - can I do this?

- If the new pool has a capacity of more than 2,000 litres you must submit a Water Conservation Plan and obtain approval prior to filling.
- If the new pool or spa has a capacity of less than 500 litres then it can only be filled with using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or by a watering can or bucket, filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.
- If the new pool has a capacity between 500 and 2,000 litres then no restriction applies to filling.

### **What is a Water Conservation Plan?**

A water conservation plan outlines how you intend to save the volume of water that you require to fill the swimming pool.

### **How do I prepare a Water Conservation Plan?**

A template for the water conservation can be downloaded from the Goulburn Valley Water website

<http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/Corporate/Restrictions/Exemptions.asp> but I can mail you a hard copy.

### **How long will it take for approval of a Water Conservation Plan?**

You need to allow five working days from the date the Corporation receives the plan.

### **Can I put in new lawn?**

Under Stage 1 water restrictions you can put in a new lawn. However, as it will require additional watering you will need to apply for an exemption.

### **How do I get an exemption?**

The exemption form can be downloaded from the Goulburn Valley Water website <http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/Corporate/Restrictions/Exemptions.asp> but I can mail you a hard copy.

### **How long will it take to receive an exemption?**

You need to allow five working days from the date the Corporation receives the application.

### **Can I use a water pistol?**

Yes you can – a water toy as referred to in the water restrictions applies to toys that operate with running water supplied via a hose.

### **How can I wash my car/boat/aeroplane?**

You can wash your vehicle using:

- (a) a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, to pre-rinse and rinse only; or by using a
- (b) a high pressure water cleaning device; or
- (c) a commercial car wash; or
- (d) a watering can or bucket filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.

### **Can I wash my windows?**

Yes you can – but only with a bucket which has been filled directly from a tap.

### **I want to paint my house and need to wash it first can I do this?**

Painting your house is considered to be a renovation and you can wash it as long as you use a high pressure water cleaning device.

### **Can I wash my driveway or path?**

You can only use water to clean hard surfaces if it is because of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency and then only via a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle.

If cleaning is required because of construction or renovation then you can clean it using water but only via a high pressure water cleaning device.

### **Can I use a high pressure water cleaner to wash driveway/paths/windows/house etc?**

Only if the cleaning is required because of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency or if it required because of construction or renovation works.

### **Can I top up my fish pond?**

Yes you can. However, you can only use a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or a watering can or bucket, filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.

### **Can I use my water feature?**

If your water feature or fountain recirculates water then it can be operated. Topping up can only occur using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or by a watering can or bucket, filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.