

**St. Petersburg Q & A Fact Sheet for Customer Service Personnel**  
**WATER USE QUESTIONS**  
**Updated February 22, 2010**

**GENERAL RESTRICTIONS QUESTIONS**

Q: Why do we have once a week restrictions?

A: The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has declared a Water Shortage for the sixteen counties within its District. While most water supplies are returning to normal conditions, others have not returned to pre-drought conditions.

Q: How long will these restrictions last?

A: Until June 30, 2010, unless modified by SWFWMD.

Q: How do I know if St. Petersburg water restrictions apply to me?

A: There are two requirements that must be met:

1. You should receive your water bill from St. Petersburg, AND
2. Your property should lie within St. Petersburg city limits.

Q: What do I do if I am not a St. Petersburg water customer?

A: Call the SWFWMD Hotline at 1-800-848-0499 to find out which restrictions apply.

Q: Are there fines associated with a watering violation?

A: Warning Notices will be issued for first-time violations. All subsequent violations observed by Enforcement Personnel will result in a citation subject to a fine plus court costs. Failure to comply with current watering restrictions is a Class II municipal ordinance offense subject to a \$175 fine plus court costs ranging from \$13 for uncontested violations to \$58 for contested violations. Subsequent violations are subject to higher fines as assessed by the court up to a maximum fine of \$500, plus court costs.

Q: Where do I go for more information?

A: St. Petersburg's Water Watch Information Line: 892-5300

St. Petersburg's Website: [www.stpete.org/water](http://www.stpete.org/water)

SWFWMD Hotline: 1-800-848-0499

SWFWMD website: [watermatters.org](http://watermatters.org)

**FOUNTAINS, WATERFALLS, PONDS**

Q: What restrictions apply for fountains and waterfalls?

A: Large aesthetic fountains and waterfalls, such as those on commercial properties, shall be operated no more than eight (8) hours per day. Small fountains, waterfalls, and other aesthetic water features, as well as those refilled with A/C condensate or reclaimed water, have no limitations.

Q: How about my fish pond?

A: Regulators recognize that fish ponds need regular aeration. The fountain may continue to operate if it is a required aeration device or is required by a stormwater permit or some other regulation. Fountains and waterfalls should be reduced to the minimum height possible to maintain fish health while minimizing water loss due to splash-out, wind, and evaporation.

**BOAT WASHING**

Q: Can I still wash my boat and flush its motor?

A: Boat washing and motor flushing are allowed after each use. When washing, an automatic shutoff device is required on the hose.

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**CAR WASHING**

Q: Can I wash my car?

A: Residential car washing with potable (drinking) water is allowed once a week, on your watering day (Saturday or Sunday, depending on address). An automatic shutoff device is required on the hose.

Q: What about charity car washes?

A: Charity car washes are allowed. An automatic shutoff device is required on each hose.

**PRESSURE WASHING**

Q: Can I pressure wash at my home or business?

A: Pressure washing with potable water is allowed.

**WASHING DOWN**

Q: Can I wash down my sidewalks/driveway/porch/stairs?

A: Washing down hard surfaces with potable (drinking) water is allowed for health and safety reasons. Well and surface water users can use these sources for washing down surfaces. An automatic shutoff device is required on the hose.

**CISTERNS AND RAIN BARRELS**

Q: Are there any restrictions on watering with cisterns and rain barrels?

A: Cisterns and rain barrels which collect rain water off roofs are not regulated by watering restrictions.

Q: Where can I get a rain barrel?

A: Plant nurseries may have rain barrels for sale for \$100 or more. The Pinellas County Extension conducts Rain Barrel Workshops where you can purchase rain barrels for much less. Call 727-582-2100 for more information.

**WATERING-IN OF LAWN CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

Q: What are the rules for watering-in of pesticides and fertilizers that have been applied by a professional contractor?

A: Chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides applied to lawn or landscape plants by a hired professional can be watered in according to manufacturer's instructions within 24 hours of application. A dated chemical advisory sign showing the date of chemical application must be visible in the yard. Allowable hours must still be followed (5 a.m. to 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.)

Q: What if I apply the pesticides and fertilizer myself?

A: Chemical treatments you apply to your lawn or landscape plants must be watered-in on your designated watering day, during allowable times for the address.