

Vaughn Cascade County Water & Sewer



1161 6th Ave, Vaughn, MT 59487

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Water Restriction Rules and Penalties

Why does the district have water restrictions?

- Water is not free and costs money to make. If you prefer your bill to remain low, do your part and conserve your water usage.
- *But we don't have a meter and we pay a flat rate so we can use all the water we want?* Not true. You should always be considerate of water usage. "Flat rate" means we pay an average of all the water used. If we don't all conserve, rates will increase.

Restrictions

- Water restrictions are in place from **June 1st through September 30th**.
- Property Owners on the North side of HWY 89 can irrigate on odd number days.
- Property Owners on the South side of HWY 89 can irrigate on even number days.
- Irrigation is permitted between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. OR between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the allowed days unless you have an in-ground automatic irrigation system. See rules below.
- No Irrigation is permitted between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the allowed day.

Rules

- **Hand Watering**

Hand watering and low-volume irrigation of plant material other than lawns or turfgrass may be done any day and at any time.

- **Permanent, In-ground, or Automatic irrigation systems**

Permanent, in-ground, or automatic irrigation systems can water every day as long as each zone is set to no more than 30 minutes. Irrigation is permitted between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. It is not permitted between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

- **New Sod and Landscaping**

All watering of new sod and landscaping must be done during allowed hours. An irrigation system zone can only be operated if the new sod or plant material covers at least 50 percent of that zone.

- The establishment period starts on the date of installation and is limited to 30 calendar days.
- Day 1: Newly installed lawns and landscape materials may be irrigated immediately following installation regardless of the time of day.
- Day 2 – Day 30: New plant materials may be watered any day before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Decorative Fountains, Car Washing, Pressure Washing, Recreation

- The use of any fountain or water feature is allowed provided it is properly maintained and also recycles water, exclusively uses reclaimed water, or provides a necessary water quality benefit.
- Car washing is allowed using hoses equipped with self-canceling or automatic shutoff nozzles, sponges, and buckets.
- Pressure washing of sidewalks, driveways, patios, and other impervious surfaces is allowed for public health and safety. Pressure washing should not be used to clean away materials that can be removed with a broom or other dry methods.
- Water slip and slides, sprinklers, and other means for recreation purposes, are encouraged and can be done any time, as long as people are present and the water is shut off when not occupied.

Wasteful and Unnecessary Use

The following wasteful and unnecessary water use activities are prohibited, at all times, and for all property owners:

- Over-irrigating and causing ponding or adjacent property saturation. Irrigation, such as a portable sprinkler, should be applied at no more than one hour per zone.
- Allowing water to flow from an unattended hose, unless that water is discharged from a functional water-to-air air conditioning unit, residential reverse osmosis treatment system, or similar device.
- Hosing-down a driveway or other impervious surface to remove grass clippings or other debris that can be removed with a broom or other dry methods.
- Hosing-down a building or other structure to remove cobwebs or other material that can be removed with a broom or other dry methods.
- Allowing water to flow from a broken sprinkler head, outdoor faucet, or other malfunctioning plumbing or irrigation system component, after receiving verbal or written notice of the malfunction from the Vaughn Water and Sewer District.
- Allowing water to be dispersed without any practical purpose to the water user
- Allowing water to be dispersed in a grossly inefficient manner.
- Allowing water to be dispersed to accomplish a purpose for which water use is unnecessary or which can be readily accomplished through alternative methods without water use.

Penalties

- Notice of violations (citations) are issued to the property owner(s) on record and assessed penalties as indicated below:
- **1st Violation** – Verbal and or Written Notice
2nd Violation – Verbal and or written Notice with \$50 Penalty
3rd Violation - Verbal and or written Notice with \$100 Penalty
4th Violation - Verbal and or written Notice with \$150 Penalty
All Additional Violations - \$200 Penalty
- **Termination:** Vaughn Cascade County Water & Sewer District may terminate service for up to 7 consecutive days for continuing violations after penalties are assessed. Service will remain off until any delinquent penalty or other assessment is paid in full, including a charge for reconnection. The decision to terminate water service is not taken lightly and will occur when other enforcement measures have not been effective. The district will consider all of the following as part of its decision regarding appropriate remedies to employ:
 - Prior enforcement remedies applied.
 - Public health and safety.
 - Amount of water being used in violation.
 - Impact of the violation.
- If a user (property owner) has not violated this ordinance for two consecutive years from the date of the last violation, the next violation will be considered that user's first offense.