

To: Oriental Water Customers

From: Oriental Water Department

Re: Water Conservation Emergency

Due to peak water demand associated with an increase in summertime population, coupled with increased water use linked to dry weather conditions, increased lawn and vegetable/garden watering, pool filling, and unchecked leaks, the Oriental Water System is declaring a water conservation emergency and is implementing the Phase I, Voluntary provisions of the Oriental Water Department Water Shortage Response Plan dated April 4, 2024.

Oriental water customers are **requested to voluntarily conserve water for all uses:**

**Below are steps that can be taken to reduce water use:**

- Report any water leaks to Oriental Water Department by calling 252-249-0555.
- Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, the toilet is leaking.
- Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.
- Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth).
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.
  - Do not allow children to play with hose or sprinklers.
- Limit car washing.
- Be ready to catch rainfall that occurs. Place containers under drain sprouts.
- Use leftover household water if available.
- Consider delaying the seeding or sodding of new lawns.
  - Determine the amount of water being used outdoors by comparing water bills for summer and winter.
  - Water before 10:00 am to prevent evaporations which occur during the hottest part of the day. Morning is better than evening, when the dampness encourages growth of fungus.
  - Water only when lawn shows signs of wilt. Grass that springs back when stepped on does not need water.

Thank you for your cooperation. This declaration will remain in place until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact the Oriental Water Department at 252-249-0555. For water emergencies, call

A COMPLETE list of conservation measures can be found on our website at [www.townoforiental.com](http://www.townoforiental.com) under NEWS.