

# Town of Frisco Water Customers

## Water Conservation Tips

Colorado has been experiencing its worst drought on record. The severity of the drought far exceeds the last recorded drought of the 1950's and no one can predict when it will moderate. The water use restrictions implemented by the Town Council in June 2002 did not produce an appreciable reduction in water consumption. Our recent snowfalls, although beneficial, do not signal the end of the drought. It has been estimated that over 40% of the moisture that falls on our very parched ground will immediately soak into it and not reach streams and reservoirs. It will take two to three years of average snow and rainfall to raise Colorado out of the current drought situation. While a return to normal conditions would be most welcome, good planning indicates that we should not rely solely on Mother Nature for help. We must take action on our own to minimize water waste and insure adequate water supplies for the future.

The Town of Frisco has sufficient water production capability to provide for the Town's domestic water needs. This is not to say that we have been unaffected by the drought. With the severity of the drought and the related low stream flows in North Ten Mile Creek, the surface water treatment plant was inoperable from May 2002 through May 2003. The Town water wells are presently producing normally with pumping rates and aquifer levels being constantly monitored. This is a trend we would like to see continue although there is no guarantee that it will. Water conservation should always be an important consideration. Under these circumstances, conservation becomes very important and the attachment to this letter details the watering schedule that will be enacted in our community based upon the water system's ability to produce potable water.

In the meantime, there are several things we can do to conserve our available water:

1. Cut watering time by at least 10 percent, and decrease fertilizer application.
2. Tune up automatic sprinkler systems. (Many automatic sprinklers have not been fine-tuned since their original installation.)
3. Water only early in the morning and in the evening. Check out [www.watersaver.org](http://www.watersaver.org) for the right amount of time to water yards.
4. Find those leaks and fix them! Do you hear an annoying drip or a remote hissing? It could be a leaky spigot or toilet (costing you 15 gallons every hour).
5. Put food coloring in the upper toilet tank. If you see the colored water in the bowl, you know you have a leak!
6. Turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth.
7. Cut down your shower time. The average person showers for eight minutes. You can shower for six minutes and be squeaky clean.
8. Turn off the water while you're soaping up in the shower.
9. Load up the washer each time you wash clothes.
10. Run your dishwasher only when completely full.
11. Consider the purchase of water-saving devices for your appliances and fixtures.
12. If it's time to replace any of your water-using appliances or fixtures, consider purchasing items with water-saver features.

The Town of Frisco will be participating with you in your efforts to conserve water. Outside of the conservative use of water for irrigation, however, you can expect to see certain uses of water that could be perceived as wasteful, but have been determined to have significant public and environmental benefit. These will be continued unless the drought situation becomes extremely critical and include:

- Water for dust control and street sweeping operations
- Water for cleaning winter debris and road salts/sand from landscaped areas on Main Street and Summit Blvd.
- Hand watering of our Main Street flower boxes
- Irrigating those public park areas that due to public use, can not be watered per the watering schedule; Walter Byron Park, Meadow Creek Park, Frisco Historic Park, Peninsula multi-purpose and ball fields will be irrigated during night time hours so that they are available for public use during daytime hours
- Hydrant flushing to maintain water quality
- System wide leak detection survey every three years

We want you to be aware that we are considering a variety of measures to conserve our own water usage this summer:

- For the upcoming year, we're looking at public areas throughout Town for hard-surface consideration. If we can hard surface or simply mulch identified areas, we will then concentrate on a few public areas (Triangle Park, Walter Byron Park, Meadow Creek Park, I-70 roundabout and Summit Blvd. medians) to provide for a lot of color and showy plantings. We will continue planting Main Street planter boxes, although a lesser number than in the recent past will be provided. Main Street hanging baskets have been eliminated for 2003, as they require excessive amounts of water.
- We believe that the maintenance and flushing of public areas, though not perceived as being water conservative, are necessary to clean up sand/gravel/cigarette butts/trash efficiently. We further believe that the sweeping of Town streets and parking lots is necessary for cleanliness and environmental reasons, primarily dust pollution issues. It is, however, our plan to utilize mechanical means to the degree possible and only enough water to protect the public infrastructure during these Public Works operations.
- We will continue to look at ways to limit our water use and will find ways to reduce total consumption.

The Town of Frisco believes that it is time to make lifestyle changes (like permanently adhering to the conservation tips recommended earlier in this letter) to accommodate our high, dry climate and save our precious water resource.

Thank you for your concern, cooperation, and your participation. If you have any questions please contact:

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