

## 1610 Water Use Restrictions

- 1610.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure the use of water is regulated in a manner the Town of Exeter Board of Selectmen (Board) deems to be in the best interests of the Town of Exeter. The Board may use reasonable means to protect, preserve and maintain the public health, safety and welfare when a water supply shortage exists.
- 1610.2 The Town of Exeter adopts this - ordinance under its authority to regulate public water systems under RSA 38:26 and to restrict the use of private wells to water lawns under RSA 41:11-d.
- 1610.3 The requirements of this section shall apply to all water users with connections receiving water from the Exeter Water Department and, under state or federally declared drought conditions, all residential well users within the Town.
- 1610.4 By definition, a water supply shortage is a situation when insufficient water is available to meet the present or anticipated needs of the water system. A water supply shortage usually occurs due to drought or a major infrastructure failure.
- 1610.5 Upon declaration of a State of Water Supply Shortage or other water emergency the Board shall be authorized to determine and implement restrictions necessary to conserve and maintain adequate reserves of the public water supply. Provided there is a declaration as noted above, the following levels of progressive restriction will apply immediately after the public notification period specified in 1610.6.
- a. If the Board issues a Level 1 restriction, then
    - i. The public is requested to refrain voluntarily from landscape watering and to limit the amount of water used outdoors for other purposes.
    - ii. Landscape watering shall not occur between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm.
  - b. If the Board issues a Level 2 restriction, then
    - i. Landscape watering by odd numbered addresses is allowed on odd numbered days.
    - ii. Landscape watering by even numbered addresses is allowed on even numbered days.
    - iii. Landscape watering shall not occur between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm.
  - c. If the Board issues a Level 3 restriction, then
    - i. Landscape watering by odd numbered addresses is allowed on Mondays and Thursdays.
    - ii. Landscape watering by even numbered addresses is allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays.
    - iii. Landscape watering shall not occur between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm.

- d. If the Board issues a Level 4 restriction, then
  - i. Landscape watering is prohibited.
  - ii. The filling of swimming pools greater than 100 gallons capacity is prohibited.
  - iii. Washing of streets, driveways, sidewalks or other impervious areas is prohibited.
  - iv. Washing of vehicles or boats at a non-commercial facility shall be prohibited.
- 1610.6 Notification of intent to implement water use restrictions by the Board due to a water supply shortage shall be posted three days prior to effective date in two public locations and published in a newspaper of general circulation within the town of Exeter or by such other means reasonably determined to notify all affected water users.
- 1610.7 The Board upon a determination that the water supply shortage no longer exists may terminate a State of Water Supply Shortage. Public notification of the termination of a State of Water Supply Shortage shall be given in accordance with 1610.6.
- 1610.8 Exceptions to restrictions include the following
  - a. Hand irrigation of crops used for food by residents at a residential property shall not be restricted.
  - b. Water to sustain animal life shall not be restricted.
  - c. Commercial car washes, cash crops, farms, flower shops or garden centers shall not be restricted.
  - d. Despite the authority granted by 1610.2, orders imposing water use restrictions shall not apply to uses that obtain water from sources other than the public water supply, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of such water directly affects the public water supply. Note: Municipalities have the authority to implement lawn watering restrictions in accordance with RSA 41:11-d applicable to all water users (including those using private wells) under state declared drought conditions.
- 1610.9 Any person failing to comply with the restrictions imposed pursuant to this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine and/or be subject to imposition of civil penalties pursuant to RSA 38:26, II not to exceed \$10,000 per day of such violation. Recovered penalties shall be used as the Town of Exeter may direct. In addition to the foregoing penalties, the Town of Exeter is authorized to discontinue the furnishing of water where orders and restrictions have been violated. Such discontinuance shall be made pursuant to RSA 38:31 and may be continued so long as there is evidence that the violations will continue.

First violation: Written warning delivered to site of violation

Second violation: \$100 fine

Third violation: \$500 fine and discontinuance of water service.

All current fees will be applicable in addition to fines including but not limited to fees for water shut-off and turn-on.