

Water Restriction Guidelines for Non-Residential Users

We all have a responsibility to conserve water and protect our precious taonga – especially when water restrictions are in place.

Local businesses and non-residential users can help reduce the risk of tighter water restrictions and water shortages by making sure they're managing their water use as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Wellington Water and local councils have created simple guidelines, so businesses and non-residential users understand how to help reduce water use and continue to operate under each water restriction level.

These guidelines are **recommendations only**, and may not apply to everyone. It's important that every business review their own practices, and make sensible, pragmatic decisions about their water use.

Each local council has specific by-laws and the power to impose specific restrictions as required. For more information on your council's by-laws, please reach out to them directly.

Check your settings

Are your appliances and equipment on low water use settings? Software updates and power outages can reset equipment to default settings. Check that your equipment is working as it should.

Water Wins

Low water use appliances and equipment can help reduce water waste.

Think flow restrictors, sensors to stop taps running, handheld triggers on hoses, and moisture detectors.

Find and Fix

Leaks can do more than waste water - excess water use can cost you money! Check your water use, and if there are any unexplained changes, call a plumber.

Culture Change

Little changes can make a big difference. Get together with your team and chat about small changes you can make across your business to drive down water waste.

Level 3 - Guidelines for Non-Residential Users

Businesses, council facilities, schools, hospitals, industry, nurseries, recreational clubs, farms and other non-residential water users connected to the public water supply are asked to:

- Restrict outdoor water use to handheld devices fitted with appropriate trigger mechanism only.
- Only operate a car wash if it uses recycled water.
- Use buckets or watering cans to water or irrigate ornamental gardens and grassed areas.
- Don't water or irrigate sports fields, recreational clubs, commercial plants other than between 6-8 am and 7-9 pm.
- Don't irrigate paddocks at any time.
- Don't use hoses and sprinklers for water play toys (slip'n'slides, fountains etc.).
- Don't use reticulated water unless recycled or reclaimed water is not available and the water use is necessary to satisfy regulatory or statutory requirements (e.g., to meet conditions of a resource consent) and the site is attended for building and construction, land development, subdivision activities, earthworks, or roadworks. Use handheld hoses free from leaks and equipped with trigger devices only.
- Carry out any exterior cleaning in accordance with the Exterior Cleaning Association Code of Practice www.ecia.co.nz.
- Hold off on high water use activities until we are in a lower (level 1 or 2) water restriction level.

Public venues are asked to reduce water used for irrigation as much as possible and target irrigation activity to between before 8am and after 7pm where possible.

There are no restrictions on lifeline infrastructure, animal welfare, vulnerable customers and for public health and safety customers.

Level 4 - Guidelines for Non-Residential Users

Businesses, council facilities, schools, hospitals, industry, nurseries, recreational clubs, farms and other non-residential water users connected to the public water supply are asked to apply Level 3 restrictions above PLUS:

- Use an outdoor hose or water blaster only if required for essential health, safety, emergency or biosecurity reasons
- Reduce irrigation of sports fields and recreational club grounds to the minimum required to keep the turf alive. You may be required to reduce or stop use of the grounds.
- Reduce or avoid irrigation of commercial plants/crops.
- Only use micro sprays or drip systems for commercial nurseries, carrying out watering in the morning and avoiding the heat of the day.
- Public Pools - Restrict water use (including topping up of public pools) to only the amount necessary for public health.
- Don't use outdoor showers.
- Don't top up or fill ponds, fountains and water features unless topping up is necessary to sustaining fish or bird life. Only use a watering can or bucket directly filled from a tap to fill the pond, fountain or water feature to their normal level.
- Don't clean vehicles or boats (except for cleaning of the boat engine) unless using a commercial car wash facility that recycles water used, a bucket filled from the tap, or is necessary for essential health, safety or biosecurity reasons.
- Only clean food transport vehicles if using handheld hose with trigger nozzle or a watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap, or if using a commercial car wash facility that uses recycles water.

Public venues are asked to reduce water used for irrigation as much as possible and target irrigation activity to before 8am and after 7pm where possible. You may be required to reduce or stop use of the grounds.

Commercial customers, such as food producers, tourism operators and venues (e.g., hotels, motels), events centres, food outlets, and large consumers, are asked to limit indoor water use as much as possible.

There are no restrictions on lifeline infrastructure, animal welfare, vulnerable customers and for public health and safety obligations.