

STATE OF GEORGIA REGULATION OUTDOOR WATER BAN

The State of Georgia has imposed a total ban on outdoor water use in North Georgia. Their reasons relate to low stream flows and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operation of the federal reservoirs.

The Corps of Engineers predicts that Lake Lanier will reach record low levels this fall, in part because of their requirement to release water from downstream purposes, including preservation of endangered species in the Florida panhandle.

Please be environmentally conscientious and respect the ban.

Although the State has mandated this ban, it is left to each city and county to enforce it. Gwinnett County's aim is to achieve resource conservation in a fiscally responsible manner.

Enforcement escalates according to steps stated in the Outdoor Water Use Ordinance, as follows:

1. For a first alleged violation a written warning will be given.
2. Subsequent violations may result in the citation of the violator.
3. Any person convicted of violating the outdoor water use restrictions by a court shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by confinement in the county jail for a total term not to exceed 60 days.
4. The director of water resources shall have the authority to terminate water service to the violator for repeated violations.

Please help the county conserve both water and its other resources by compliance with the ban.

Certain exemptions are specified by the State of Georgia regulations. These exemptions from the outdoor water ban are stated in full below:

DNR Regulation 391-3-30-.05 Exemptions

- (1) This rule shall not apply to the following outdoor water uses:
 - a) Capture and re-use of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances.
 - b) Re-use of gray water in compliance with applicable local ordinances.
- (2) The following established landscape water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this rule.

- a) Use of reclaimed wastewater by a designated user from a system permitted by EPD to provide reclaimed wastewater.
 - b) Irrigation of personal food gardens.
- (3) Newly (in place less than thirty days) installed landscapes are subject to the following:
- a) Irrigation of newly installed landscapes is allowed any day of the week, but only during allowed hours for the drought response level in effect, for a period of 30 days following installation. **No watering is allowed during Drought Response Level Four.**
 - b) For new landscapes installed by certified or licensed professionals, commercial exemptions apply.
- (4) The following golf course outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this rule.
- a) Use of reclaimed wastewater by a designated user from a system permitted by EPD to provide reclaimed wastewater.
 - b) Irrigation of fairways during times of non-drought and Declared Drought Response Level One.
 - c) Irrigation of tees during times of non-drought and Declared Drought Response Levels One, Two and Three.
 - d) Irrigation of greens.
- (5) The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this rule.
- a) Professionally certified or licensed landscapers, golf course contractors, and sports turf landscapers; during installation and 30 days following installation only. Professional landscapers must be certified or licensed for commercial exemptions to apply.
 - b) Irrigation contractors; during installation and as needed for proper maintenance adjustments only.
 - c) Sod producers.
 - d) Ornamental growers.
 - e) Fruit and vegetable growers.
 - f) Retail garden centers.
 - g) Hydro-seeding.
 - h) Power-washing.
 - i) Construction sites.
 - j) Producers of food and fiber.
 - k) Car washes.
 - l) Other activities essential to daily businesses.
 - m) Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf.

