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## Water Providers Group to allow limited residential car washing

**Steamboat Springs, CO** - Two weeks ago, the Community Water Providers Group announced Stage 2 water restrictions effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. With an eye to Stage 2 policies now in force elsewhere in the state, the Community Water Providers Group has agreed to allow residential car washing on scheduled water days.

### **Residential car washing:**

1. Residents may wash their own private vehicles at their residences on scheduled watering days only.
2. Residents must use a bucket and/or a spring-loaded hose nozzle with auto-shutoff; no running hoses.
3. The Community Water Providers Group encourages residents to use biodegradable detergent and to wash the vehicle on a permeable surface to reduce runoff of debris from hardscapes into the storm sewer and into natural drainages.

"We believe that this policy comprises a reasonable approach to vehicle care at residences", said Jay Gallagher, Mt. Werner Water General Manager.

The Community Water Providers Group has also clarified or amended its position on two other water restrictions:

### **Powerwashing:**

Powerwashing or hosing driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots with potable water is considered water waste; in addition, the runoff of water and debris from hardscapes flows into our stormwater system and contributes to the degradation of our natural drainages.

1. Powerwashing or hosing driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots with potable water is not allowed. Alternative methods include brooming, powerbrooming, or powerblowing.
2. Residents and contractors may powerwash siding or wooden decks in preparation for painting or staining. Avoid water waste.

## **Water features:**

Water features are considered a casual use of potable water, and are generally discouraged. However, they also share aesthetic qualities with spas and swimming pools. Under Stage 2 water restrictions the operation of water features is prohibited while the operation of pools and spas is not. Because of this inconsistency, the Water Providers Group has agreed to allow the operation of water features if they are less than 200 square feet in extent and do not splash or spray water in the air. As with spas, swimming pools, and irrigation systems, water providers are concerned about water feature losses to evaporation and system leaks in the plumbing and liners.

1. Any water feature that uses potable water must be a recycling system and must have an approved backflow prevention device on its make-up water supply.
2. Running an outdoor water feature that sprays or splashes water into the air or has a surface area greater than 200 square feet is prohibited.
3. Water providers reserve the right to order the shutdown of a water feature that uses excessive water or is poorly maintained.

## **Effective May 1<sup>st</sup>: Mandatory Stage 2 Water Restrictions**

- Potable water shall be used for beneficial purposes and should not be wasted.
- No outdoor watering 10AM – 6PM.
- Watering schedule based on the last number of customer street address. If multiple addresses are served by a single system, then landscapers should choose one or the other schedule.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even	Odd	Even	No Watering	Odd	Even	Odd

- No vehicle washing at residences except on scheduled watering days and only with a bucket or spring-loaded hose nozzle. Residents are encouraged to use biodegradable detergent and to wash the vehicle on a permeable surface
- No washing hard surfaces (eg. driveways, sidewalks, parking areas) with hose or powerwisher using potable water. Use a broom, powerbroom, or powerblower. Residents and contractors may powerwash siding or wooden decks in preparation for painting or staining. Avoid water waste.
- No use of domestic water for dust control.
- Any water feature that uses potable water must be a recycling system and must have an approved backflow prevention device on its make-up water supply. Running an outdoor water feature that sprays or splashes water into the air or has a surface area greater than 200 square feet is prohibited.
- Swimming pools are limited to one filling per year, unless draining for repairs.
- Permits may be secured for newly-sodded lawns and newly-planted trees for up to 14 consecutive days and for newly-seeded lawns for up to 25 consecutive days with the exception of Wednesdays.

## **Tips for conserving water:**

- Avoid watering in windy conditions.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering hard surfaces.
- Set timers to avoid over-watering. Less water will induce grassroots to seek water deeper in the soil horizon which will strengthen your lawn.
- Our clayey soils slow the penetration of water, so it is better to water for three short intervals than for one long interval.
- When irrigating with a hose, use a spring-loaded nozzle, not a free-running hose.
- Cut your lawn no shorter than 3 inches to reduce soil moisture loss and to promote deeper roots.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs or sodding new lawns during the drier, hotter months.
- Plant native grasses and shrubs or drought-tolerant species in place of water-intensive species.

For more information on water saving tips and a list of drought-resistant plant species, please visit the City or District websites: [www.steamboatsprings.net](http://www.steamboatsprings.net) or [www.mwwater.com](http://www.mwwater.com) .