

Pinellas County Code 82-3 Pinellas County Reclaimed Water Shortage Conservation Measures

(Ordinance 09-13)

F.A.Q.

1. *What is the Ordinance all about?*

Answer: This ordinance, now part of Pinellas County Code, allows for seasonal limitation of reclaimed water usage during the timeframes of April 1 to June 30 and October 1 to November 30. During these periods, irrigation using reclaimed water is authorized for 3 days per week based on the last number of the house address. Addresses ending in odd numbers (1,3,5,7,9), properties with a “mixed” address, or properties with no address, may irrigate on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. All even number addresses (0,2,4,6,8) may irrigate on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The authorized hours for overhead irrigation are from 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. All irrigation with reclaimed water is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on designated irrigation days and is prohibited at all times on Monday.

2. *Why do we need this Ordinance?*

Answer: Reclaimed water is a valuable limited water resource that helps reduce the use of regional drinking water supplies for irrigation purposes. At certain times of the year, we experience significantly reduced rainfall amounts and related increased demand on the reclaimed water system. By limiting the use of reclaimed water to three days a week, each customer can contribute to the conservation effort and still have enough reclaimed water to maintain a healthy landscape and lawn.

3. *Which three days I can irrigate?*

Answer: House number addresses ending in the odd numbers 1,3,5,7,9, or a mix of addresses, or properties with no house number such as common areas associated with residential subdivisions, can irrigate on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Addresses ending in the even numbers 0,2,4,6,8 can irrigate on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

4. *Why am I not allowed to irrigate between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.?*

Answer: Irrigating during daylight hours is the least effective way to provide turf grasses and landscaping with sufficient water because there is significantly increased evaporation rates caused by direct sunlight and increased temperatures.

5. *Did Utilities allow too many people to connect to their systems?*

Answer: No. The County's two regional reclaimed water systems were carefully planned, designed and built to allow for a designated number of customers based on available reclaimed water supplies. The irrigation application rates that were utilized in the planning and design of the systems, were based on specific irrigation requirements determined by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. During certain times of the year, some customers use 4 to 6 times the amount of reclaimed water that is needed to maintain a healthy lawn and landscape.

6. *Is the County going to enforce these restrictions and how much are the fines?*

Answer: Yes the County will patrol and enforce the ordinance during time periods when reclaimed water is restricted. Non-compliance of the Reclaimed Water Shortage Conservation Measures is a Category 2 local ordinance violation. Fines are set by a fine schedule from the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court. When a violation is observed, a Notice of Ordinance Violation will be issued and may result in a fine of \$188. In addition, three violations within a year could result in termination of reclaimed water service to the violator.

7. *Where can I report a violation?*

Answer: You may call the Utilities Customer Service phone line at (727) 464-4000. During regular office hours, you may give the information about the violation to a phone representative. During non-business hours (24 hours a day), you may leave a message on the automated mailbox by choosing the option to report a water restriction violator.

8. *I still have questions, who can help me?*

Answer: You can call the Utilities Customer Service phone line at (727) 464-4000, or you can go to the County website: www.pinellascounty.org/reclaimed