



Dear Bedford Water Customers,

Due to the ongoing drought, we are temporarily asking all Bedford Water customers to **voluntarily conserve water**, with a goal of **reducing overall usage by approximately 5–10%**.

Until further notice, customers are encouraged to limit or eliminate **non-essential water use**, including:

1. Ornamental purposes:

- i. Examples: Fountains, reflecting pools, and/or artificial waterfalls.

2. Outdoor non-commercial watering (public or private):

- i. Examples: Gardens, lawns, parks, golf courses (except greens), playing fields, and/or other recreational areas.
- ii. Exceptions:
 - a. Use of fresh water at a minimum rate necessary to implement re-vegetation following earth moving, where such re-vegetation is required pursuant to an erosion and sedimentation control plan adopted pursuant to law or regulation, to the extent that sources of water other than fresh water are not available or feasible to use.
 - b. Watering of shrubbery, trees, lawn, grass, plants or other vegetation from a watering can or other container not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity.
 - c. If you have to water, do it later in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation.

3. Filling and operation of swimming pools:

- i. Examples: Manufactured or constructed recreational pools that hold more than 30 gallons.
- ii. Cover pools when not in use to limit evaporation.

4. Washing of motor vehicles:

- i. Examples: Automobiles, trucks, boats, and trailers.

5. Fire Hydrants:

- i. Examples: Any purpose, including use of sprinkler caps and testing fire apparatus and for fire department drills.
- ii. Exceptions:
 - a. Firefighting.
 - b. Health protection purposes, if specifically approved by the Bedford County Health Department.

- c. Certain testing and drills by the fire department, if in the interest of public safety and approved by Bedford Water's Board of Directors.

6. Flushing of sewers and hydrants; washing of paved areas.

- i. Examples: Cleaning sidewalks, driveways, etc.
- ii. Exceptions:
 - a. As needed to ensure public health and safety, approved by the Executive Director of Bedford Water.

7. Air conditioning:

- i. Examples: Refilling cooling tower after draining.
- ii. Exceptions:
 - a. Make-up of water during the cooling season.

8. Other ways to conserve water:

- i. Run only full dishwashers and washing machines.
- ii. Don't rinse plates before placing them in the dishwasher.
- iii. Don't let the water run while brushing teeth or shaving.
- iv. Take 5 minute (or less) showers instead of baths.
- v. Use a broom to sweep driveways, walkways, and patios instead of hosing them down.
- vi. Thaw food overnight in the refrigerator rather than using running water.

Water conservation is always important, but it becomes especially so during critical periods like this. By working together now, it can help minimize the need for more restrictive measures later.

Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated. Updates will be provided when more information is available, and we remain optimistic that improved weather conditions will allow us to lift this conservation notice soon.

If you have any questions or would like additional tips on conserving water, please visit the website, bedfordwater.com, or contact the office at (540) 586-7679.

Thank you for helping us protect our temporarily limited water supply.

Sincerely,

Bedford Water