

# EAST DILLON WATER DISTRICT

July 2003

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## WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions remain in effect. The restrictions were modified in April to allow unrestricted hand watering either with a watering can or a hose with a shut off nozzle. Hand watering is allowed on any day and at any time. This modification allows car washing, power washing and other outside usage as long as it is by hand – you cannot just let the hose run unattended. There also is no restriction on the use of drip irrigation systems. Drip irrigation is a very water efficient application method for trees and shrubs.

### Current water restrictions:

- Even number addresses – outside water usage is allowed ONLY on Sundays and Wednesday before 9 AM and after 6 PM.
- Odd number addresses – outside water usage is allowed ONLY on Tuesdays and Saturdays before 9 AM and after 6 PM.
- Hand watering, using either a watering can or a hose with an shut off nozzle is ALLOWED at any time.
- Watering using drip irrigation systems is not restricted.

## The worst outside watering practices?

By far the worst use of water outside is spray irrigation during midday. The combination of the heat and the wind causes most of the water to evaporate prior to the water reaching the plant root – very inefficient use of water. This is why the water restrictions do not allow spray irrigation from 9 AM to 6 PM. Another problem is applying too much water that can cause landscaping to not develop the proper root structure to withstand dry periods and the winter conditions. Finally, sprinklers that put more water on driveways and other hard surfaces than the plants only wastes water.

## Why are there still water restrictions?

Late winter storms and a wet spring greatly improved the water conditions in Summit County. Dillon Reservoir has filled due to a combination of the improved conditions in our area, lower water usage in the Front Range from restrictions and a wet spring, and various water deals allowing almost all of the inflow to be retained in the Lake. However, the East Dillon Water District obtains its water from shallow wells in the Soda Creek aquifer. While our water source is of extremely high quality, the recharge of the aquifer is from a small area and does not have the extensive storage capacities of a reservoir. Our aquifer reached an average level at peak run off this year and the District felt this was not sufficient to fully restore it following several years of dry conditions. The weather change in late June to the current dry conditions confirmed the continuation of water restrictions was a prudent decision.

## Why not just find more water?

The District has water rights that would allow it to potentially tap other water sources. However, this would likely result in water of much lower quality and the cost to access and tap these sources would be extremely expensive. The lowest cost method to provide adequate water service to all residents is conservation. The District continues its policy of encouraging prudent landscaping and water conservation, both inside and outside of your home, to provide high quality water at a reasonable cost to all users.