



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Water Department
100 Fairway Drive
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: (401) 294-3331
www.northkingstownri.gov

NEW HOMEOWNERS FACTSHEET WATER CONSERVATION IN NORTH KINGSTOWN TWICE PER WEEK WATERING & IN-GROUND SPRINKLER ORDINANCES

North Kingstown has at times experienced a water supply shortfall under maximum summer day water demand conditions. In other words, we do not have adequate pumping capacity to consistently meet the highest water demands we have experienced. We have at times exceeded pumping capacity. Our ability to provide municipal water and fire service is dependent on promulgating effective policies to reduce peak demand and other wasteful uses of our potable water supply. In the interest of protecting public health and safety and after considerable public discussion, the North Kingstown Town Council adopted an amendment to the North Kingstown Utilities Ordinance that restricts the irrigation of lawns and landscaping for properties using irrigation (sprinkler) systems to two (2) days per week.

Duration of restrictions for lawn and landscape irrigation Irrigation of lawns and landscaping for properties using sprinklers is restricted to twice per week from July 1 through September 1 on an annual basis or until such time as this section is repealed or rescinded or superseded.

Schedule of irrigation of lawns and landscaping

Irrigation of lawns and landscaping is restricted from July 1 through September 1 in accordance with the following:

IRRIGATION DISTRICT 1

(SPRINKLER USE ALLOWED ON **MONDAY AND THURSDAY ONLY**)

All North Kingstown Water customers located to the east of Route 1/Post Road/Tower Hill Road.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT 2

(SPRINKLER USE ALLOWED ON **TUESDAY AND FRIDAY ONLY**)

All North Kingstown Water customers located to the west of Route 1/Post Road/Tower Hill Road.

No sprinkler operation will be permitted in any district between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM or on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday; however, hand watering of flowers and/or vegetable gardens is permitted on any day.

To aid you in your efforts to develop and maintain an attractive lawn in an environmentally friendly manner, we offer these tips, courtesy of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District:

Water during the morning (before 9 a.m.) to prevent sun scalding and reduce evaporation. Be sure to avoid watering in the evening and on cloudy or hot and humid days when water that remains on grass can increase susceptibility to disease.

Water no more than one-inch per week. A rain gauge or a shallow can, placed in the sprinkler area, will enable you to measure the inch (this inch should also include any rainfall during the week). Rain gauges are available at most local garden centers. Overwatering can stress grass and lower resistance to insects and/or disease.

Water only one time per week and be sure to water slowly and deeply to moisten the whole root zone. This will promote healthy root growth and limit disease. Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation where possible to help deliver water to the plant's roots more effectively.

If planting a new lawn, consider seeding with a fescue mix that is enhanced with endophytes. Fescues are more drought tolerant and the endophytes are a naturally occurring fungus that will repel many



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Town of North Kingstown In-ground Sprinkler Ordinance

North Kingstown's ordinance has five main points that can easily be summarized as follows:

- ✓ **BACKFLOW** – All in-ground sprinklers must be equipped with an appropriate backflow device.
- ✓ **PERMIT** – A building permit is required for all in-ground sprinkler systems.
- ✓ **RAIN SWITCH** – A rain switch device that shuts the system off during a rain event is required.
- ✓ **PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE** – As North Kingstown's water distribution system operates at a pressure above what is appropriate for a sprinkler system, a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) set at or below 60 psi is required.
- ✓ **LOW-FLOW SPRINKLER HEADS** – Sprinkler heads must deliver a flow of no more than 5 gpm at 60 psi.

Feel free to contact the Department of Water Supply or the Building Official's Office for more information on this ordinance.

Thanks to the Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org) we are pleased to offer these additional tips towards efficient and effective in-ground irrigation of lawn & landscapes:

- Know how to run your irrigation controller and change watering times.
- Adjust the watering times (number of minutes) and the frequency of watering (daily, twice a week, etc.) based on weather conditions.
- Change your settings to adjust for seasonal differences and reset the timer when needed.
- Ask your contractor to install an inexpensive rain shutoff device or soil moisture sensor.
- Regularly have a certified irrigation auditor check for leaks, broken heads and other problems.
- Make sure the maintenance contractor is certified and licensed (if required), is insured, experienced and reputable and is legally authorized to maintain irrigation systems in your area.
- Only water after the sun has gone down or in the early morning.
- Make sure your spray and sprinkler heads are properly adjusted to avoid watering pavements and other non-landscape areas.
- Water areas in the shade about 30 percent less than sunny areas.
- If possible use drip irrigation to water trees and shrubs.
- To eliminate runoff, set your clock to cycle 2-4 start times (no longer than 5 minutes each), 1 to 2 hours apart to allow water to soak into the soil. For example: water three times for 5 minutes, instead of 15 minutes all at once.
- Develop a separate drip watering schedule for trees, shrubs and flower beds.
- Aerate in the spring and fall to loosen soil and reduce runoff.

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NORTH KINGSTOWN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND WELLHEAD PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICTS

Our drinking water comes from wells

- **Groundwater is vital to North Kingstown's water supply needs.** In 1988 the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the Hunt- Annaquatucket- Pettaquamscutt aquifers part of the Sole Source Aquifer area. The designation reflects the Town's dependency on its groundwater resources and lack of alternative water supplies.
- **The quality of North Kingstown's drinking water is excellent.** Our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state standards. North Kingstown's consumer confidence report that provides information about the Town's drinking water quality is available at the Department of Water Supply.
- **You can help North Kingstown protect our groundwater.** If you live in groundwater protection zone, remember that what occurs on your property may affect the groundwater that serves as the Town's drinking water supply.

NORTH KINGSTOWN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Did you know that....

- **North Kingstown has an ordinance that requires property owners to maintain their ISDS or cesspools.** The town ordinance requires that septic systems be inspected and/or pumped every three years. The state and Town recommend that cesspools be pumped out on a yearly basis. Call the North Kingstown Water Dept. of Water Supply for additional information and ISDS Maintenance Report Forms.
- **All ISDS and cesspools eventually need pumping.** Solids build up in septic tank and should be pumped if the solids (sludge and scum layer) occupy 35% to 50% or more of the liquid level of the tank. Failure to do so will result in solids clogging your leach field and possible failure of your system.
- **There is no scientific evidence that shows that ISDS or cesspools additives help a system to function better.** The use of chemical and organic solvent cleaners in a septic system is prohibited by state law and may contaminate groundwater supplies. Adding such products may also kill the good bacteria that provide wastewater treatments in the system.