

# Sample Language for Water Conservation Ordinances

## Water Wasting

### Water Wasting - Single Paragraphs

#### Example 1. Runoff & Impervious Surfaces

Subd. All lawn sprinkler systems and irrigation systems connected to the municipal water system shall be constructed and operated to prevent water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation by prohibiting runoff, low head drainage, over spray, or other similar conditions where water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, walks, roadways, or structures.

#### Example 2. Runoff & Impervious Surfaces

### Water Wasting - Multiple Paragraphs

Subd. Waste of water, as defined below, is prohibited.

- a. allowing water to run-off to a gutter, ditch, or drain
- b. failure to repair a controllable leak
- c. washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios, or other paved areas
- d. refilling a swimming pool with municipally supplied water after it has been drained
- e. non-commercial washing of privately owned vehicles, trailers, and boats, except from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle may be used for a brief rinse
- f. failure to put water to a reasonable beneficial use

Subd. Residents shall be encouraged not to permit any water furnished by the City to run to waste in any gutter or other impervious surface.

Texas.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or recklessly irrigate, water, or cause, or permit the irrigation of a lawn or landscape located on premises owned, leased, or managed by the person, within the corporate limits of \_\_\_\_\_ that causes:

1. a substantial amount of water to fall upon impervious area instead of upon the lawn or landscape, or excessive irrigation, such that a constant stream of water overflows from the lawn or landscape onto a street or drainage area; or

2. an irrigation system or other lawn or landscape watering device continues to operate during any form of precipitation; or
3. an irrigation system or other lawn or landscape watering device continues to operate within the corporate limits of the \_\_\_\_\_ when the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly or recklessly operate an irrigation system or other lawn or landscaping watering device on premises owned, leased, or managed by that person, within the \_\_\_\_\_ that:

1. has broken or missing sprinkler heads, or
2. has not been properly maintained in a manner that prevents waste of water.

#### Clarke County

The following uses of water by all residential, commercial, governmental, and institutional outdoor water users are defined as “wasting water” and are prohibited at all times:

1. Failure to repair or to isolate and by-pass a leak, including a broken sprinkler head or emitter, a leaking valve, faucet, pipe or toilet.
2. use of irrigation systems or watering methods that allow potable water to flow into the public rights of ways such as alleys, streets, gutters, or storm water drainage system or onto any other person’s property.
3. Operation of an irrigation system:
  - a. with a broken head or emitter,
  - b. with a head directing spray onto an impermeable surface, or
  - c. operating an irrigation system during a rain event exceeding one quarter inch.

#### Ruidoso

1. The wasting of water is prohibited. The following practices are considered water wasting and shall be prohibited as provided in this section:
  - a. using treated water for any purpose such that it flows, sprays or is otherwise excessively discharged upon any street, ditch, drain or another property.
  - b. Failing to repair leaks in a system which delivers water within 5 days of the discovery of the same.
  - c. Watering when wind conditions are such that water being sprinkled blows off the property.