

EVEN HOUSE NUMBER



Plan page

March 1 to October 31 two days a week	MON —	TUE —	WED WATER	THU —	FRI —	SAT —	SUN WATER
November 1 to February 28 one day, your pick	MON —	TUE —	WED —	THU —	FRI —	SAT PICK	SUN PICK

No watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Front lawn

42

min per watering day in July, the peak
11 in December · High water · Pop-up spray heads



Shrub beds

39

min per watering day in July, the peak
10 in December · Low water · Inline dripline, loam soil
setup



Vegetable bed

97

min per watering day in July, the peak
25 in December · Moderate water · Inline dripline, loam
soil setup

MINUTES PER WATERING DAY, EVERY MONTH

MONTH	DAYS/WK	FRONT LAWN	SHRUB BEDS	VEGETABLE BED
January	1	13 min	12 min	29 min
February	1	23 min	21 min	52 min
March	2	17 min	16 min	40 min
April	2	25 min	23 min	57 min
May	2	33 min	30 min	76 min
June	2	40 min	37 min	93 min
July	2	42 min	39 min	97 min
August	2	38 min	35 min	87 min
September	2	29 min	27 min	68 min
October	2	19 min	17 min	43 min
November	1	18 min	17 min	42 min
December	1	11 min	10 min	25 min

RULES IN SHORT

The exceptions include drip irrigation, hand watering, food gardens, potted plants, new plantings, smart controllers, fixing or testing sprinklers and heat waves, each with its own conditions. A written exception can also be requested. The full text is on the rules page.

FINES

First: a written warning. Then \$25, \$100 and \$500 within 12 months.

IF IT RUNS OFF

Split the minutes into two cycles with a 30 minute soak break. The total stays the same. Skip watering during and after rain.

City of Sacramento addresses water on two assigned days. From March 1 to October 31, even-numbered addresses water on Wednesday and Sunday, odd-numbered addresses on Tuesday and Saturday, and not between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. From November 1 to February 28, watering drops to one day per week, Saturday or Sunday, at any hour. Drip irrigation and hand watering are exempt from the day rules.

Rules that apply

- City page exemption list: drip irrigation or soaker hoses; watering with a hose and spray nozzle; smart controllers that have been validated by City staff; potted plants; edible gardens; new landscaping, up to 30 days after installation; when there are two or more consecutive days above 100 degrees.
- Ordinance detail, fully exempt from BOTH days and hours limits (13.04.870.E): landscape irrigation using a low volume irrigation system; irrigation of container plants; hand watering with a watering can or using a hose without an automatic timer; operation of irrigation systems solely for testing, maintenance, or repair.
- Ordinance detail, exempt from the DAY rules but NOT the 10 a.m.-7 p.m. hours rule (13.04.870.F): new landscaping per 13.04.880; irrigation of a special landscape area; smart controller properly installed and operated as verified by the department; landscape irrigation during a heat wave period; alternate method authorized by the director with substantially equal conservation benefit.
- New landscaping (13.04.880.A): any day of the week for 30 days after planting; director may extend in writing based on plant type and season. City FAQ: up to 30 consecutive days when new sod is installed.
- Rain rule: no watering during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall (13.04.870.H); city page states it as 48 hours after one-eighth inch of rain.
- Always prohibited regardless of day: water waste/runoff onto sidewalks or gutters, ponding (13.04.860); washing down sidewalks, driveways, or parking areas except fire/health/sanitation or IPM (13.04.870.A); vehicle washing only with an automatic shut-off nozzle on the hose or a bucket (13.04.870.B); fountains/decorative water features must recirculate (13.04.870.G).
- Variance: email waterconservation@cityofsacramento.org or call 916-808-5605 to request a variance from landscape watering requirements.
- City parks are allowed to water during the week (city FAQ); other city facilities should follow the schedule.

Fines

- 1st violation in a 12-month period (page: within 365 days): written warning/notice of violation, no fine (code 13.04.890.A.1).
- 2nd violation in 12 months: \$25 penalty; removed if within 60 days the owner/occupant attends a department water conservation seminar or accepts a Water Wise House Call (one such removal per premises per 24 months) (13.04.890.A.2; page: waivable by participating in a Water Conservation program).
- 3rd violation in 12 months: \$100 (13.04.890.A.3).
- 4th and each subsequent violation in any 12-month period: \$500 (13.04.890.A.4).
- Mechanics: violations on separate calendar days are separate violations; penalty is imposed on the property owner and added to the water bill; director may waive any penalty if within 120 days the owner participates in turf-removal, irrigation-upgrade, or smart-controller incentive programs (13.04.890.B); appeal within 30 days (13.04.900); all penalty amounts DOUBLE while a council-declared water shortage is in effect (13.04.890.E).

Report water waste

Call 311 (or 916-264-5011), email 311@cityofsacramento.org, report online via the city 311 website, or use the Sac311 smartphone app; include days/times observed, the address, and any pattern (frequency/duration).

How the minutes are worked out

Week's climate demand = Sacramento monthly reference evapotranspiration (state ordinance Appendix C) x 7 / days in the month. Plant need = demand x plant factor (very low 0.05, low 0.2, moderate 0.5, high 0.8). Minutes a week = need / (sprinkler rate x system evenness 0.7) x 60, then split across the watering days. Rain is not subtracted: skip watering during and after rain and follow the supplier's rain rule.

Sources

- City's official Watering Schedule page (read August 25, 2026): <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/utilities/water-conservation/watering-schedule>
- Sacramento City Code (2026 S-4 current) sections 13.04.860 water runoff, 13.04.870 outdoor conservation (dates, days, hours, exemptions E/F, rain rule), 13.04.880 new landscaping, 13.04.890 penalties, 13.04.900 appeal (read August 25, 2026): https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/sacramentoca/latest/sacramento_ca/0-0-0-26057
- Water Conservation landing page (read August 25, 2026): <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/utilities/water-conservation>
- Council Resolution 2026-0081 (2026-04-14) (read August 25, 2026): <https://records.cityofsacramento.org/ViewDoc.aspx?ID=s6tFBnt4W+lwfqg1SyvmZYh%2FgBBCsC6I>

About this plan

WateringTimes is an informational gardening and landscape reference for California and the other states it covers. Watering numbers are estimates computed from public state data. Nothing on this site is regulatory or professional advice of any kind. Check your water supplier's current rules before relying on any schedule.

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