



Water Conservation Ordinance

LMC 13.08.030.1 Definition of Water Waste

Any of the following acts or omissions, whether willful or negligent, shall constitute the waste of water:

- A. Causing or permitting water to leak, discharge, flow or run to waste into any gutter, sanitary sewer, watercourse or public storm drain, or to any adjacent property, from any tap, hose, faucet, pipe, sprinkler, pond, pool, waterway, fountain or nozzle. In the case of irrigation, “discharge”, “flow”, or “run to waste” means that the earth intended to be irrigated has been saturated with water to the point that excess water flows over or through the earth to waste. In the case of washing, “discharge”, “flow”, or “run to waste” means that water in excess of that necessary to wash, wet or clean the dirty or dusty object, such as an automobile, sidewalk, or parking area, flows to waste.
- B. Allowing water fixtures (including but not limited to toilets, faucets, shower heads) or heating or cooling devices to leak or run to waste.
- C. Maintaining ponds, waterways, decorative basins or swimming pools without water circulation devices.
- D. Backwashing so as to discharge to waste swimming pools, decorative basins or ponds in excess of the frequency necessary to ensure the healthful condition of the water or in excess of that required by standards for professionally administered maintenance or to address structural considerations, as determined by the city manager, or designee.
- E. Operation of an irrigation system that applies water to an impervious surface or that is in disrepair.
- F. Use of a water hose not equipped with a control nozzle capable of completely shutting off the flow of water except when positive pressure is applied.
- G. Irrigation of landscaping during rainfall or 48 hours after a measurable rain event.
- H. Overfilling of any pond, pool or fountain, which results in water discharging to waste.

LMC 13.08.120 Mandatory Requirements in Promotion of Water Conservation

- A. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses (as defined in LMC Section 13.08.030.1) are prohibited.
- B. Water shall be confined to the user’s property and shall not be allowed to run off to adjoining properties, or to the roadside or to the gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.
- C. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
- D. All leaks (including irrigation systems, pipes, fixtures, pools, ponds, fountains and waterways) shall be repaired within five calendar days or less if warranted by the severity of the problem as determined in the discretion of the city manager, or designee.
- E. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be allowed only to the extent required for health, maintenance, or structural considerations, and must otherwise comply with all applicable federal, state and local storm water management program requirements, including, but not limited to the urban storm water quality management and discharge control ordinance set forth in Chapter 13.28 of Title 13 of the City of Lathrop Municipal Code.
- F. Landscaping
 1. All landscaping installed in the City of Lathrop shall comply with the current Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) established by the State Department of Water Resources and landscape requirements adopted by resolution of the city council.
 2. Irrigation of new landscaping shall be allowed on any day of the week for a period of 30 days after the new landscaping is planted, unless the city manager, or designee, provide prior written consent to extend this time period based on plant type and the season when landscaping is planted. After 30 days, irrigation days and run times should be decreased to settings appropriate for an established landscape.
 3. Upon city declaration of a water shortage, the city manager may impose revised and/or additional limitations on the irrigation of new landscaping as specified in the City’s WSCP set forth in Section 13.08.130, and no person shall use, or cause to be used, city water violation of such limitations while the water shortage remains in effect. A Waiver may be granted to irrigate during an established period for actively used turf areas and /or sports field. Allowance shall also be made for irrigation testing and repairs.

