



**A Message From
Broward County
Vice-Mayor
Lois Wexler**

You probably know by now that South Florida is experiencing a severe drought and I want to encourage everyone to do their part to conserve our precious water supply. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has issued Phase II Water Shortage Restrictions for the Lower East Coast of Florida, which includes Broward County. This warning is due to a lack of significant rainfall and the low water level of Lake Okeechobee. These indicators show us that there is a worsening shortage of our water supply due to lack of rain. The restrictions are designed to achieve up to a 30 percent reduction in overall demand.

The Phase II Water restrictions mandate that homeowners water their lawns at certain times on specified days. If your address ends in an odd number, watering is permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. Even numbered addresses can water on Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. Hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is also allowed from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the same days.

Although not mandated under the current water restrictions, there are a variety of ways to conserve water inside your home as well, particularly in your kitchen, bathroom and laundry area.

Automatic dishwashers use about fifteen gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. You will use a lot less water and electricity if you load to capacity. Clothes washers also are more water efficient if run only when they are full. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the tap run freely to rinse. Instead, plug the second side of your sink and let it fill. Even if this water needs to be changed two or three times to keep water soap-free, you'll use considerably less water and keep the water heater from working as hard. You can also fill a pitcher with drinking water and store it in the refrigerator. This eliminates the wasteful practice of running the tap while waiting for water to cool.

In your bathroom extra-long showers gobble up many gallons of water. Limit showers to five minutes. One trick is to turn off the water while washing hair and soaping up. Each minute subtracted from a running shower head could save up to ten gallons of water. It's also a good idea to replace standard shower heads with low-volume heads or flow restrictors. This step could cut water consumption by one-fourth. When you take a bath, filling up the tub is not really

necessary. A half-full tub will clean you just as well as one filled to the brim. Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth or shaving too.

During periods of extremely low rainfall, Broward County's groundwater system is being depleted faster than it can be replenished. So, to keep our environment flourishing with life, water supplies must be protected.

This supply and demand imbalance can be addressed if we use water wisely year round, not just in times of a drought. Water conservation is necessary to ensure an ample water supply for ourselves and for generations ahead. Conservation will do more than save gallons of water. It also will save you money!

If you have any questions about water conservation or any other issues please don't hesitate to call. My office number is (954) 357-7005 or you can e-mail me at lwexler@broward.org

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

**Lois Wexler
Broward County Vice-Mayor
Commissioner-District 5**