



**The ARAMARK Tower
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Water Department Outlines Drought Emergency Restrictions

The Philadelphia Water Department is reinforcing Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker's message and is calling on Philadelphians to conserve water as drought conditions continue. Philadelphia is one of the 24 counties included in the drought emergency declared on February 12, 2002 by the Governor and the state's Drought Task Force. The emergency designation imposes mandatory water use restrictions for all of the affected counties.

Philadelphia's reservoirs are currently filled to near capacity, which is normal. However, conservation is critical now to avoid more serious shortages should drought conditions persist. Water Commissioner Kumar Kishinchand emphasizes, "Water is a limited, natural resource, and it is a resource that is shared. The amount of water we use in Philadelphia will have an impact on the region. With spring approaching, it is necessary for Philadelphians to conserve water now to ensure there is an adequate supply for the future."

The Philadelphia Water Department, under the guidance of the Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management, has developed mandatory water use restrictions for Philadelphia's citizens to conserve water resources in the region.

The mandatory rules make it illegal to:

- Use water to clean personal, leased or rented vehicles, trailers, and boats by any means other than by bucket.
- Use water to clean sidewalks, streets or gutters, unless determined to be necessary for public health and safety;
- Use water for ornamental purposes, like fountains, waterfalls, and reflecting pools;
- Water gardens, trees, shrubs, except between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. and then only by a bucket, can, or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- Water lawns at all, except newly seeded or sodded lawns, which may be watered between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. by bucket, can, or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle; sprinklers are strictly prohibited.
- Fill residential swimming pools; NOTE: (The State has permitted water providers, depending on their supplies, to allow residential swimming pools to be filled. Philadelphia's supplies are adequate at this time, therefore we are allowing residents to fill pools.)
- Fill swimming pools serving at least 25 dwelling units such as hotels, motels, and apartment complexes, unless they have filtration equipment to allow for continued use and recycling of water over the swimming season.
- Fill swimming pools unless they are operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation;

- Serve water in restaurants, clubs or eating places, unless requested by an individual.
- These restrictions are effective immediately until the Drought Emergency is lifted.
- The majority of the Pennsylvania counties affected by the drought obtain all or portions of their drinking water from groundwater sources. Philadelphia's drinking water sources, the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, are surface water supplies.

This past October-December period was the second driest that the Northeastern United States has ever had. More than 100 counties in the Northeast are under drought advisories, watches, or warnings. For the drought situation to improve, several periods of slow, steady, soaking rain are necessary to replenish underground water tables. These water tables are the water source for stream and river flow levels, as well as, well water supplies.

The Water Department will provide tips for residents to save water around the house and yard to supplement restrictions. For more information, customers may call the Water Department's hotline, 215-685-6300.

If the above mandatory water restrictions would result in a hardship, you may write a letter to request an exemption. Please detail the reason for your request and address it to the Philadelphia Water Department, Dennis Blair, ARAMark Tower, 2nd Floor, 1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994.

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