

## **FAQ's for Drought Response Level Four (10/3/07)**

### **What is drought response level 4?**

Drought Response Level 4 is a total ban on outdoor water use.

### **What if I have a decorative water fountain?**

The use of ornamental fountains is prohibited in Drought Response Level 4.

### **Can I fill my swimming pool?**

Filling of pools is prohibited in Drought Response Level 4. This includes topping off. If the pool

level falls below the filter, it is time to close the pool for the season.

### **What if my pool has been repaired and must be filled or the sides will collapse?**

For the purpose of maintaining structural integrity the pool may be filled. Please provide a written repair receipt and the date you will be filling the pool to the Department of Water Resources for our records.

### **Are there any exemptions to Drought Response Level 4?**

Yes.

Watering of new landscapes installed by certified or licensed professionals may be watered for 30 days.

- Landscape and irrigation professionals are exempt from restrictions when on the property.

- Homeowners must follow the hours of Midnight-10 AM during the 30 days following professional installation.

Irrigation of personal food gardens is allowed.

Use of reclaimed water is allowed. (i.e. rain water or air conditioner condensate)

Water from an alternate source is allowed. (i.e. pumping from a personal creek or well)

We caution that these water bodies also face difficulty during the drought and are unlikely to recharge. Also drawing down these smaller bodies does impact streams and rivers that are fed by these sources.

More details on exemptions can be found at

[http://www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/rules/rules\\_exist/391-3-30.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/rules/rules_exist/391-3-30.pdf)

### **What if I just installed new landscaping at my home? Can I water?**

Watering of newly installed landscape by homeowners is prohibited in Drought Response

Level 4. For new landscape installed prior to the Drought Response Level 4 declaration (September 28, 2007), the homeowner may complete their 30 watering days between the

hours of midnight and 10 AM. Proof of landscape purchase prior to the declaration date is required.

### **Why did we go to a total ban?**

The Georgia EPD has declared the need for a Drought Response Level 4 in order to preserve our water supply. The following factors influenced the decision.

Ongoing and projected continuing drought conditions.

Higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation – 16 inches behind in rainfall for the year.

Lake Lanier is predicted to reach its winter pool (lowest level of the year) by October. It normally reaches that level in December.

Lake Lanier is 12 feet below normal and continues to drop.

Lake Lanier is predicted to hit historically low levels.

Continued withdrawals by the Army Corps of Engineers, is also drawing down Lake

Lanier.

We must ensure an adequate water supply for public health and safety.

**I am a professional painter or power washer. Can I power wash homes, etc.?**

Yes. We are not restricting business use of water at this time. Professionals can power wash as needed.

**Chemlawn came out and treated my yard. They said I have to water it in tonight.**

**Can I?**

Yes. This is considered a business use of water. The customer should water it in between

Midnight and 10 AM. They should request documentation from their lawn chemical company.

**Can I hold a charity carwash to raise money?**

No. Charity carwashes have been banned since we went to Drought Level Response 2.

**Is aeration and over seeding considered new landscape?**

Yes, we received clarification from DNR that it is considered new landscape. If a professional

company has aerated and over seeded, the homeowner will have 30 days to water it in.

**How can I get my garden through the drought?**

Capture the condensation from your air conditioner unit. Some units provide up to 20 gallons of water a day.

Use a rain barrel to capture rain water.

Catch the water in your shower as you wait for it to heat up. Use it on high priority plants.

Save a few gallon jars. Perforate the bottom with small nail holes. Fill with water you saved indoors or from your AC unit. Place them throughout your garden. They will deliver water slowly to the roots.

For more tips on how to survive the drought visit the Department of Water Resources web page at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).