

Permanent Water Wise Measures

Questions and Answers

Q. What are Permanent Water Wise Measures?

A. Permanent Water Wise Measures are simple common sense every day actions for users of town water in the Bega Valley Shire. They include:

	Permanent Water Wise Measures	Aim
Gardens and lawns	Hand held hoses, watering cans and buckets may be used at any time. Fixed watering systems and unattended hoses may only be used between 5 pm - 10 am (daylight saving time) and 4 pm -11 am (eastern standard time).	To maximise the potential for water to soak into the soil by watering gardens when evaporation is lower.
Hard surface areas	No over-spray water from garden or lawn watering is to run-on or run-off hard surface areas. Water from a hose must not be used to clean hard surface areas, unless as a result of an accident or to reduce a health or safety hazard. Water from a hose must not be used to clean hard surface areas for construction or renovation work, unless connected to a high-pressure cleaning device.	To ensure water is applied directly to the areas intended and for the purpose intended and not to run on to and off nearby hard surfaces where it is wasted and can be seen by others as being wasted.
Vehicles and boats	Vehicles and boats should only be washed on grassed areas with a bucket, with a hand-held hose used for a final rinse. This does not apply to designated vehicle and boat washing facilities such as commercial car washes.	To reduce water used for washing vehicles and boats.
Swimming pools	A cover for swimming pools is recommended when not in use.	To reduce evaporation and the loss of water from swimming pools.
Boat ramps, beach showers and fish cleaning tables	Spring-loaded or other water saving type taps are to be installed at all beach showers, boat ramps and fish cleaning tables.	To reduce water used and the potential for taps to be left running.

Q. When do they apply?

A. Permanent Water Wise Measures were introduced on the 2 December 2009 and apply permanently across the Bega Valley Shire, except for areas where water restrictions are in place. Water restrictions override Permanent Water Wise Measures.

Q. Who do Permanent Water Wise Measures apply to?

A. Permanent Water Wise Measures apply to all BVSC water customers, including residents, businesses and government.

Q. How do Permanent Water Wise Measures differ from Water Restrictions?

A. Permanent Water Wise Measures are a set of measures to guide the responsible use of water at all times and are not linked to the water supply situation at any time. Water restrictions are a set of rules introduced temporarily when the available water in storage or the capacity to supply water is limited due to drought.

Q. Are Permanent Water Wise Measures mandatory?

A. Yes, Permanent Water Wise Measures are mandatory and apply to all BVSC water customers.

Q. Are Permanent Water Wise Measures enforceable and are there fines?

A. No, Permanent Water Wise Measures are not enforceable and there are no fines, however people are encouraged to follow the measures and discuss with Council any difficulties they may have with following the measures at any time. The aim of Permanent Water Wise Measures is to guide and encourage responsible water use practices rather than to enforce a set of water usage rules. Nevertheless, it is an offence to misuse water under Section 637 of the Local Government Act 1993 and anyone openly and willingly misusing water despite requests from Council to modify behaviour may be subject to a penalty infringement notice and a fine.

Q. What do I do if I can't follow the Permanent Water Wise Measures?

A. If you are genuinely unable to follow any of the Permanent Water Wise Measures and have good reasons why, you are encouraged to contact Council and discuss options.

Q. Can I report someone who I think is using water contrary to the Permanent Water Wise Measures?

A. Yes, you may contact Council if you think someone is using water contrary to the Permanent Water Wise Measures. You will need to provide the address of the property, a brief description of the water use practice in question and your name. Council will record your report and follow appropriate customer action request procedures.