



# Dighton Water District

192 Williams St.

North Dighton, MA. 02764

(508) 824-9390

## Water Ban Explanation

The Dighton Water District currently has over 1,900 service connections. Our water supply comes from wells. We have two wells on Walker Street and three wells on Cedar Street. The wells are piped to our treatment plant on Williams Street which was built in 2006.

We experienced significant water demand during the COVID-19 outbreak in April, May and June. During these months, our water demand increased by 12 million gallons. To put this into perspective, we normally pump 12 million gallons during the entire month of February.

With the temperature increase in June, the lack of rain to recharge our well supply, and the excessive amount of water pumped through late June we decided the correct course of action was to implement a full water ban on all non-essential outdoor water use. The action has helped but as of July 24, 2020, our well levels are over two feet lower than they were in 2019.

Dighton has approximately 300 homes which have automatic sprinkler systems. The average sprinkler system zone uses 8-12 gallons per minute. If 100 of these homes have their sprinkler systems on at any time, it is equal to 800-1,200 gallons per minute. The Dighton Water District treatment plant can only pump 700 gallons per minute, this does not allow us to meet the demands of the Dighton Water District users or provide for fire protection.

Some other steps that are being taken are the completion of our master plan and hydraulic model by our contracted engineering firm. The completion of these items will help us focus on devising a proper plan to allow us to meet the needs of our customers and provide services for the future of Dighton. Other steps taken are, the Dighton Water District has enacted a moratorium on new construction water tie ins. The District had 1,400 service connections at the time the treatment plant was built and there are now over 1,900. To keep up with the rapid expansion of the town, options will be explored by the District's engineers to find more water sources and optimize our treatment technique. The development of a new well or source of water takes approximately 5-10 years to approve and build as it's far more entailed than simply sinking a well in. Also, if your home does not have an automatic sprinkler system they will not be allowed on existing homes or new construction.

Currently, all non-essential outdoor water use is banned at all times. This includes any sprinkler use and filling pools. Handheld watering of flowers and gardens IS allowed.

Water uses *NOT* subject to this water ban include:

- For health and safety purposes
- For the production of food and fiber
- For the maintenance of livestock
- To meet the core functions of a business (For example: irrigation by plant nurseries to maintain stock)

**Any water ban violations shall be subject to the following fines:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: WRITTEN WARNING

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$50.00 Fine

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$100.00 Fine

4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Termination of water until the matter of continued violation is resolved.

The Dighton Water District website will be updated with further information as it becomes available.

For further questions, please call the Dighton Water District at (508) 824-9390.