



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 1

WATER YOUR LAWN BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM

Keep Water Rates in Check



Water Your Lawn Between 12:00 and 6:00

As you know, watering your lawn, garden and other vegetation is an important part of enhancing the attractiveness and value of your property. What you may not know is that some times of the day may be more advantageous for you than others to water your lawn.

Water demand varies during the day. Just like the flow of traffic, there are certain hours when the demand for water is higher. The water used during these “rush hours” is called the “peak demand”. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) automatically designates the period from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 AM as a non-peak time period. In Plymouth Township, water use between 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm is considered low-peak hours. The amount of money the Township has to pay for water from DWSD is partially based on water consumption during these peak hours.

By watering your lawn smartly, you may be able to keep your water rates in check. Unfortunately in summer 2010, water usage within Plymouth Township peaked during the DWSD system-wide peak demand hours, resulting in a rate increase for Township

customers. In summer 2011, residents successfully shifted water usage activities to non-peak hours resulting in a rate reduction.

The time of day you use water does have an impact on the rates DWSD charges Plymouth Township for the water it provides!

What Can I Do?

By shifting outdoor and indoor water usage activities to the non-peak hours of 12 to 6, water users will be able to prevent or minimize future rate increases.

Adjust your irrigation system to conform to weather conditions (there is no need to water during periods of ample rainfall). During dry weather, set your irrigation system to operate between the designated non-peak hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 AM. If you manually water your lawn, use the low-peak hours between 12:00 noon and 6:00 PM.

Some irrigation companies will say this is not a good time to water since it may encourage diseases. We have done our homework and the Michigan State University Extension Service indicates that watering during these periods will not cause problems.

How Does a Water Rate Increase Affect My Total Water Bill?

There are four separate line items on your water bill: water charge (WC), sewage disposal (SD), trash pick-up (SWD) and sewer surcharge (WTUA). Only the water charge is impacted by water rate increases.