

Residents of the Crest of Wickford Condominium

The Crest continues to use much more water than in previous years. If we cannot get water consumption down, there may be a special assessment to cover escalating water costs and we will not be able to undertake any discretionary spending such as landscaping and non-critical building maintenance. It could also force us to reduce the painting budget, lawn maintenance, and other condo maintenance next year. The Board will not water the entry way trees and any lawn areas as we have in the past as summer dry periods occur. The new entry flowers were chosen based on needing very little water.

We have previously asked residents to minimize their water usage and to check for leaking toilets and faucets. Please read the suggestions below and follow them as much as you are able.

Easy ways of minimizing water usage:

Check your faucets and toilets for leaks. A little food dye in a toilet tank tells in an hour if you have in-toilet leakage. Call a plumber if you have these problems.

Minimize watering of plants: water immediately at the plants, not a general spray around.

Shrubs older than two years should survive on rain water.

Shower quickly.

Don't let water run when washing items or brushing teeth.

Use gray water whenever possible. Soapy water is OK for plants. Shower in a tub and use the tub water for plants or even filling a toilet tank after flushing.

Don't wash sidewalks or patio floors unless an emergency.

If you have a power washer, we ask that you not use it until the water bills stabilize. A reminder, power washers should not be used on common building elements which include external building walls, patio walls and planter walls or sidewalks. Professional power washers use their own water - get together with neighbors to hire one for several units, usually at a better price.

More difficult or expensive actions to minimize water usage:

Install a new, water-saving toilet. The latest are very effective and much more efficient than the original Crest type which may be 40 years old.

The Crest Board is studying the feasibility of installing individual water meters so individuals would only be paying for their own usage.

We accept that some plants will suffer, that we won't look as clean and pretty for awhile and that some actions may cost additional time for you personally, but until we have three or four water bills in the vicinity of previous years, we must do as much of these individual actions as possible.

The Board of Directors of the Crest of Wickford Condominium