



Water Usage Policy

Water is one of the largest running costs over the allotment sites and as a council one of the areas we are continually looking to improve on is sustainability. Therefore, this policy is written taking this and the impact to our environment into consideration as well as seeking the advice of the National Allotment Society.

- a) RTC strongly advocate the use of watering cans from the filling from water butts throughout the year.
- b) All forms of flood or sprinkler irrigation is **forbidden**, and these items will be removed. A written notice will be issued if you use these watering systems.
- c) You can run a temporary hose from your main tap to your plot for hand watering or to fill a water butt. You can then fill watering cans when you need to.
- d) Hoses are to remain unattached from taps and stored away properly when not in use.
- e) The water supply on allotments is shared between all tenants. We ask that you remember this, especially during busy times.
- f) Any structures on your plot, such as greenhouses or sheds require the harvesting of water, through having a secured water butt or other water container in place.
- g) All water storage sources are to be cover and insulated to reduce the risk of legionella.
- h) Water containers that store water need to be secured and safe for animals and children.
- i) Water mains will be turned on between April 1st and October 31st
- j) Permanent piping leading to a plot from a tap or mains pipe is not allowed. If you make connections to the allotment water pipes, interfere with or adjust the

allotment stopcocks under any circumstances we will result in the termination of your tenancy.

- k) If you notice a leaking tap or pipe, note the number of the nearest plot or have any issues with accessing water supply please inform a member or RTC at the earliest opportunity on 811115 send an email to facilities@rydetowncouncil.gov.uk

- ✓ We strongly recommend watering in the morning or evening when it's cooler.
- ✓ Watering during the hottest part of the day can lead to 90% of the water being lost through evaporation. You can also use surface mulches to reduce water loss from the soil.
- ✓ A hose pipe can use over 1000 litres of water in just one hour, which is more than the average household uses in an entire day.
- ✓ When using water storage containers. Adding half a teaspoon of cooking oil will spread a film across the top of the water that will prevent mosquitos breeding.
- ✓ Further information and advice from the NAS can be found here:

[A5 Water 260213 HiRes.pdf \(nsalg.org.uk\)](#)