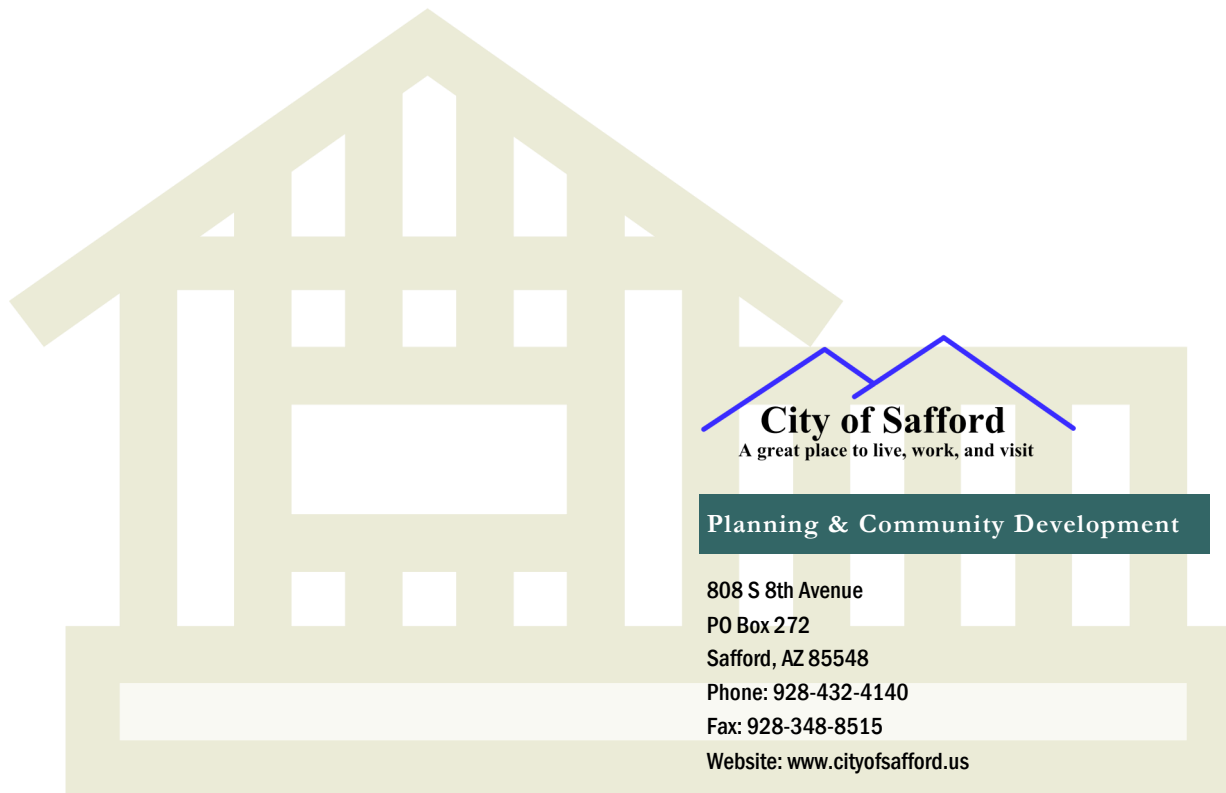


Why?

Water is a natural and precious resource in the Gila Valley. By implementing these changes together we can reduce our water consumption rate and preserve our resources for generations to come.



City of Safford
A great place to live, work, and visit

Planning & Community Development

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Hours: Monday-Thursday; 7:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.



WATER EFFICIENCY ORDINANCE

What & why?



Effective February 25, 2016

Does this apply to me?

These changes and additions to the City of Saford Municipal Code are only required to be adhered to by any new residential or commercial construction or landscaping.

Purpose

The purpose is to establish minimum standards for water consumption with the intent to conserve limited water resources within Graham County.

General Requirements

- A landscape plan shall be required for the establishment of any new landscaping for new construction on any lot within the city.
- Water efficiency standards will be applicable for landscaping on remodels and additions in the case that existing landscaping is replaced and/or new landscaping is installed.
- Water Efficiency Standards for indoor fixtures will be applicable on remodels and additions for existing fixtures that are replaced and for any new fixtures installed.
- All turf, plants and trees shall be watered by an efficient irrigation system.
- No turf areas may be less than eight (8) feet in length or width.
- Plants and trees listed as low and medium water use on the Graham County Plant List may be used without limitation. Turf, plants and trees listed as high or not listed in the Graham County Plant List are considered water-intensive landscaped areas and are limited as described in the following sections.

New Single Family and Multi-family Development Common Areas: The amount of water-intensive landscaped areas in common areas of new single family and multi-family developments shall not exceed 15% of the total landscapable area. If reclaimed water is used on such common areas, the area may be increased to 25%.

New Single Family Lots: The amount of water-intensive landscaping shall not exceed the following:

- 20% - Lots under 10,000 sq. ft.
- 15% - Lots 10,000 sq. ft. to 20,000 sq. ft.
- 10% - Lots 20,000 sq. ft. and over

Commercial and Industrial Lots: The amount of water-intensive landscaping shall not exceed 15% of the landscapable area.

Public Facilities: The amount of water-intensive landscaping shall not exceed 15% of the landscapable area. Active recreational areas are exempt from this limitation.

Right of Ways: Turf, plants and trees not listed as low or medium water use on the Graham County Plant List shall be prohibited in all rights-of-way, whether or not reclaimed water is used to irrigate.

New Installation of Indoor Fixtures: New installation of plumbing fixtures must meet the following minimums for high water efficiency ratings:

- Toilet: 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf)
- Urinal for Commercial: Waterless
- Showerheads: 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm)
- Faucets: 2.2 gpm for residential, 0.5 gpm for commercial or public with automatic shutoff valves

New Installation of Swimming Pools: Swimming pools shall be equipped with pool covers and shall be in place any time the pool is not in use. Pool covers must be customized to minimize evaporation and must cover the shape of the pool entirely and be made of a durable material. If pools require backwashing, water shall not be drained onto streets or right of ways and shall be utilized and retained within the property boundaries.

Gray Water Systems: Gray water systems are encouraged. Gray water originating from the residence shall be used and contained within the property boundary for household gardening, composting, lawn watering, or landscape irrigation. Human contact with gray water and soil irrigated by gray water should be avoided. Gray water requirements are as follows:

- Surface application of gray water is not used for irrigation of food plants that have an edible portion that comes in direct contact with gray water.
- The gray water shall not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposing of waste solutions from home photo labs or similar hobbyist or home occupational activities.
- The gray water system shall be constructed so that if blockage, plugging, overflow, or backup of the system occurs, gray water can be directed into the sewage collection system. The gray water system may include a means of filtration to reduce plugging and extend system lifetime.
- Any gray water storage tank is covered to restrict access and to eliminate habitat for mosquitoes or other nuisances. Any odor or toxic fumes emitted due to the gray water system is prohibited and shall be abated immediately.
- The gray water system must be located outside of a floodway.
- Gray water piping systems shall be clearly marked for identification.
- Gray water applied by surface irrigation shall not contain water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments unless the gray water is disinfected before irrigation.
- Surface irrigation by gray water is only by flood or drip irrigation. Spray irrigation is not allowed. Containment within horticultural basins or swales is encouraged for flood irrigation.

Water Harvesting: Water harvesting is encouraged. Water retained from water harvesting shall be used and contained within the property boundary for irrigation and other watering purposes with the following requirements:

- Maintained as required to keep the system functioning as designed.
- Maintained to prevent the accumulation of unwholesome, stagnant or offensive water.
- Maintained to prevent the attraction or breeding of mosquitoes or other undesirable pests.
- Used for nothing other than its intended purpose as a rainwater harvesting system.