

FACT SHEET

Water-to-Air Cooling/Heating & Reverse Osmosis Units

Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

Water-to-Air Cooling/Heating

Water-to-air cooling or heating technologies include geothermal units and cooling towers.

Geothermal units are used in some residential and small commercial buildings. Newer models use a closed-loop pipe that recirculates the water, but some older ones use well water that only passes through the system once.

Cooling towers are commonly used in schools, libraries and other large buildings. Potable or reclaimed water is typically involved, and newer models must be carefully operated to balance energy and water use efficiency.

The following year-round water conservation measures apply:

- A sprinkler head, irrigation system or unattended hose may be used to discharge water
- This discharge may occur on any day of the week and at any time of the day

Reverse Osmosis

A residential reverse osmosis (RO) unit is most commonly used to treat water from a domestic well in order to bring it up to drinking water standards. However, some potable water customers also use this technology.

RO treatment units produce a poor-quality water byproduct that is suitable for irrigating some plant material. The water use efficiency of a RO unit depends, in large part, on the difference between the raw water it is treating and the desired quality of the finished product.

The following year-round water conservation measures apply:

- A sprinkler head, irrigation system or unattended hose may be used to discharge water
- This discharge may occur on any day of the week and at any time of the day

General Information

Stricter local ordinances may apply, so be sure to also check with your local water utility.

If you have any questions about how these or other year-round water conservation measures apply to your facility, please call 1-800-848-0499 during normal business hours or send an inquiry to Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org.