

In limited situations, Austin Water may grant a variance from water restrictions ([City of Austin Code 6-4, Article 30](#)). All variances are issued on a case-by-case basis, and a request for a variance must be submitted using Austin Water's checklist and application. After the approved variance expires, applicants must follow the [current watering schedule](#).

Austin Water's **New Xeriscape Landscape Variance** is for a newly installed xeriscape landscape design that requires a special watering schedule.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a customer of Austin Water or [qualifying water provider](#)
- Must not [waste water](#)
 - no broken/missing sprinkler heads, leaking/broken pipes, or leaking faucet
 - no water running, flowing or streaming into street, parking lot, or other surface

NEW LANDSCAPE PLANTS MUST:

- alter more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape; or
- be installed at the time of construction of a residential or commercial property;
- be installed as part of a governmental capital improvement project;
- be installed to stabilize an area disturbed by construction

XERISCAPE IS:

- a style of landscape design to conserve water and energy that includes plants that at full growth will cover at least 50% of the new landscape's coverage area. The plants must come from a plant list provided by Austin Water and identified as xeric.

XERIC PLANTS REQUIRE:

- low or very low water use. [Austin Water's approved plant list](#) specifies plants that may receive a new xeriscape landscape variance. Austin Water may approve other plants if they will be low or very low water use. For a list of stabilization/erosion control plants that qualify for this variance, please refer to [The City of Austin's Standard Specifications Manual Item #604S](#).

CHECKLIST

- Meet all eligibility requirements above
- Provide list of approved plants that will be installed and/or plants not on the approved list
- Provide a detailed site map
- For **new** xeriscape landscape required for a certificate of occupancy:
 - Provide a variance notice at least one business day before the landscape is installed
- Follow the watering schedule after variance is approved:
 - Days 1-10 - water daily before 10:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.
 - Days 11-40 - water twice per week before 10:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.
- Submit the application and send it to:
mail: Austin Water Conservation, Attn: Variances, PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
email: watercon@austintexas.gov | **fax:** 512-974-3504

NEW LANDSCAPE/XERISCAPE - VARIANCE APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Austin Water Account #: _____ Name of Account Holder: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Installation Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address
(if different than above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VARIANCE INFORMATION

Type of Variances: New Construction Capital Improvement Project
 Stabilizing Soil > 500 Square Feet of Existing Landscape

Date of Project Installation: _____

Requested Date Range - **Daily** Watering (Days 1-10): _____

Requested Date Range - **Twice Weekly** Watering (Days 11-40): _____

SITE MAP

Please include a site map that shows the following:

- North arrow, street information, and building arrangement;
- Site map of new construction, capital improvement project, or area disturbed by construction (if applicable);
- Area of new landscaping altering more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape (if applicable);
- Controller's identification and locations (if applicable)

VARIANCE AGREEMENT

I certify that all statements and representations contained in this application are true, correct and complete. I have read and understand the variance eligibility. I have completed each of the required items on the checklist and submitted all required items. I understand that incomplete applications will not be processed and irrigation pursuant to this variance does not exempt me (or my organization, if applicable) from complying with Austin Code, Chapter 6-4, Water Conservation.

Signature

Date

CITY OF AUSTIN USE ONLY

Approved Denied

Site Inspection Date: _____

Staff: _____