

In limited situations, Austin Water may grant a variance from the 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 an 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.

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. To be eligible for this variance, plants must come from a list provided by Austin Water, require low or very low water use, and be identified as xeric.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Applicant:**
 - o Must be a customer of Austin Water
 - o 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
- **Landscape:**
 - o New landscape plants must:
 - Alter more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape,
 - Be installed at the time of construction of a residential or commercial property,
 - Be installed as part of a governmental capital improvement project, or
 - Be installed to stabilize an area disturbed by construction
 - o Xeric plants:
 - Must be selected from [Austin Water's approved plant list](#) or from the list of qualifying stabilization/erosion control plants found in the [City of Austin's Standard Specifications Manual Item #604S](#)
 - Austin Water may approve other plants if they will be low or very low water use

CHECKLIST

- Meet all eligibility requirements above
- For new xeriscape landscape required for a certificate of occupancy:
 - Provide a variance notice at least one business day before the landscape is installed
- Submit the variance application and include:
 - List of approved plants** that will be installed and/or plants not on the approved list
 - Detailed site map**, including:
 - North arrow, street information, and building arrangement
 - Site map of new construction, capital improvement project, or area disturbed by construction (*if applicable*)

NEW LANDSCAPE/XERISCAPE WATERING VARIANCE APPLICATION

- Area of new landscaping altering more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape (*if applicable*)
- Controller's identification and locations (*if applicable*)
- Send application materials to:
 - Mail:** Austin Water Conservation, PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
 - Email:** waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov
 - Fax:** 512-974-3504
- Follow the watering schedule after variance is approved:
 - Days 1-10 – water daily before 5:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.
 - Days 11-40 – water twice per week before 5:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.

WATERING VARIANCE APPLICATION – NEW XERISCAPE LANDSCAPE

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Austin Water Account #: _____

Name of Accountholder: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Property Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address:
(if different) _____

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: _____

List of Approved Plants (*attach separate page, if needed*):

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

Variance: Approved Denied

Date Range – Daily Watering (Days 1-10):

Date Range – Twice Weekly Watering (Days 11-40):