

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](#) to receive this variance
      - o 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:
  - A list of approved plants that will be installed and/or plants not on the approved list
  - A detailed site map
  - Send application materials to:  
**Mail:** Austin Water Conservation, PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767  
**Email:** [waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov](mailto:waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov)  
**Fax:** 512-974-3504
- 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.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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**

Variance:  Approved  Denied  
Date Range – Daily Watering (Days 1-10):  
Date Range – Twice Weekly Watering (Days 11-40):