



The Association of
**Professional
Landscapers**



Hosepipe bans and landscaping projects: how does it affect you?

Is there a hosepipe ban in your area? Don't worry, your landscaper is here to help you move forward with your project. They will provide you with guidance around the hosepipe bans and help you understand what you can and can't do.

Here's what you need to know about hosepipe bans and how it affects your landscaping job

Exemptions to hosepipe bans

A hosepipe ban (officially called a Temporary Use Ban, or TUB) is the first course of action applied when water companies are experiencing a water shortage, to reduce demand for water in their areas. There are certain exemptions under a hosepipe ban which allow for using a hose under specific circumstances. These include:

- Using a hosepipe with a cement mixer for building works
- Cleaning paths and patios, decking and paved areas for health and safety reasons
- Plants in outdoor pots or in the ground under cover are also exempt from a hosepipe ban, but we would still recommend using a watering can if you are able to
- Filling a garden pond with wildlife in, to maintain oxygen levels in order to keep the fish healthy.



How to keep your newly planted garden healthy

Other exemptions are often provided by your water company, such as:

- Using a hosepipe connected to a water butt filled before the hosepipe ban came in
- Allowing the use of a slow-release low-pressure watering system such as drip or trickle irrigation with a timer function
- Using a hosepipe for the watering of newly laid plants, trees, and turf for 28 days to allow them to become established
- Many water companies also have provisions for priority support customers or blue badge holders.

Check who your water supplier is and what provisions they may have in place at www.water.org.uk

Longer-term tips for aftercare – saving water in the garden

With climate change in effect, we are likely to have much hotter, drier summers, and wetter winters. Our gardens and green spaces need to adapt to cope with this, and you can help by building in some resilience into your gardens. This could be through:

- Installing water butts or underground water storage tanks to save water during wet periods
- Adding more shade to reduce temperatures and protect plants and turf
- Considering the drainage needs of your plants whether they are in the ground or in pots and planters.

Your landscaper or garden designer can help you with all of these.

If you have any concerns around any equipment being used or installed, or want to know what your options are for longer-term maintenance and water retention, speak to your landscaper who can help find the right solutions for you.

Useful websites for more advice

There is some useful advice from the Royal Horticultural Society at www.rhs.org.uk/gardening-for-the-environment/water and you can make the pledge to move from mains water to rainwater at www.mains2rains.uk.

You can also find helpful resources for saving water at home at www.watersworthsavings.org.uk

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